

Hafa Adai!

JGO asks court to dismiss Torres' lawsuit. **PAGE 2**

Gregory Borja is new BOE chair; Antonio Borja is vice chair. **PAGE 2**

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## 2 more cases on Rota ID'd

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

» 18 new  
positive  
cases found

The Rota Health Center has reported that two more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the island's case total to four.

In related news, 18 more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 from surveillance and travel testing on Jan. 8 and 9, bringing the

CNMI's total to 3,665 cases since March 28, 2020, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. late Monday

See ROTA on Page 4



### VANDALS ON TINIAN

Numerous acts of vandalism occurred on Tinian over the weekend, with the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater's glass windows being shattered and the Taga Beach white concrete sign defaced with cuss words and other nonsense. The Tinian Department of Public Safety is asking the community's help in identifying the individual(s) responsible for these acts by calling (670) 433-9222 or the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at (670) 234-7272 if you wish to remain anonymous. CNMI Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information that leads to an arrest. It pays to call.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### AT A GLANCE

As of 5:17pm, Jan. 11, 2022

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **97.2%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,058
Fully Vaccinated:	35,655
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,297
Fully Vaccinated:	5,098
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,117

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	21,118	0*	21,118
Recovered	19,167	0*	19,167
Active	1,679	0*	1,679
Deaths	272	0*	272*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,647	18	3,665
Traced via Travel Screening	366	6	372
Traced via Community Screening	3,281	12	3,293
Deaths	20	0	20

\* No updates

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### House likely to impeach Torres today

» Villagomez says they will be acting on the impeachment resolution



Torres

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Democrat Party-controlled House of Representatives will likely impeach Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in today's session that is expected to be long and will have the presence of some Torres supporters, pro-impeachment individuals, and police officers to contain the crowd, in and

See HOUSE on Page 4

## Health officials let COVID-infected staff stay on the job

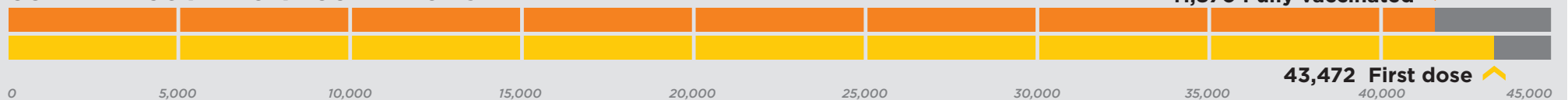
By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and  
JENNIFER McDERMOTT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health authorities around the U.S. are increasingly tak-

ing the extraordinary step of allowing nurses and other workers infected with the coronavirus to stay on the job if they have mild symptoms

See HEALTH on Page 4

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



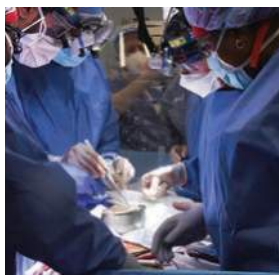
### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

Atkins Kroll is now accepting entries for the 15th Annual Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

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#### NATION

In a medical first, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Betty White died from a stroke she had six days before her Dec. 31 death at age 99.

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# Local

## JGO asks court to dismiss Torres' lawsuit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives' Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations asked the CNMI Superior Court yesterday to dismiss the lawsuit filed against it by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Brendan Layde and Joseph Tajeron Jr., counsels to the JGO committee, filed yesterday with the Superior Court the motion to dismiss the lawsuit, their main argument being that the JGO is protected under the CNMI Constitution's speech or debate clause,

which provides them immunity from such proceedings.

"The CNMI speech or debate clause is intended to protect legislators from harassment by the Executive Branch, including the burden of defending meritless lawsuits. The speech or debate clause protects the JGO committee from harassment such as this lawsuit as it exercises legislative oversight. It has absolute immunity for acts, such as the subpoena for the governor to testify, that fall within the sphere of legitimate legislative activity. There is therefore no legal theory that could

sustain recovery and no set of possible facts to be proven at trial on which the complaint states a claim for which relief could be granted. The suit must therefore be dismissed under Rule 12(b)(6)," Layde and Tajeron state.

The two lawyers argued that under this clause, a legislative investigatory committee has absolute immunity from suits for acts within the sphere of legitimate legislative activity.

"Legislative immunity is an affirmative defense [that] provides absolute, comprehensive protection from suits challenging actions taken in the perfor-

mance of official legislative functions. Where the complaint itself establishes legislative immunity, a[n] action should be dismissed under [NMI] R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted," the motion said.

With that, the lawyers explained that the subpoena at issue here is just a written statement made to advance a legitimate legislative activity.

"The subpoena was issued pursuant to a valid legislative purpose and therefore constitutes legitimate legislative activity for purposes of speech

or debate clause immunity," they argued.

They further explain that the valid legislative purpose of the subpoena against Torres was to aid the JGO in creating a legislation to reform a law that specifically names the governor as an official entitled to housing at taxpayer expense.

"The subpoena called for testimony regarding payment and use of utilities for the benefit of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Mrs. Diann Tudela Torres. Similarly, numerous receipts demonstrating unlawful first-class travel by Gov. Torres have informed the Legislature's judgment in crafting a remedial bill. The subpoena

was narrowly tailored to facilitate remedial legislation on this matter as well: first/premium class travel performed on behalf of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government. The governor's testimony is precisely the information the Legislature needs in light of its particular legislative objective," the lawyers explained.

In addition, the JGO committee moves to dismiss the lawsuit for failure to join a required party, the CNMI Attorney General.

The JGO argues that complete relief cannot be accorded between Torres and the JGO committee without joinder of the attorney general.

## Gregory Borja is new BOE chair; Antonio Borja is new vice chair

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education elected Gregory P. Borja as its new chairperson during the board's first meeting of 2022 yesterday, with Antonio "Toram" Borja elected vice chairperson and Maisie B. Tenorio reelected secretary/treasurer.

The meeting, which had only one item on its agenda—the election of officers—also saw

outgoing BOE chair Andrew L. Orsini expressing his gratitude to all board members for working together and deciding on matters unanimously.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Orsini said he will continue to "work for the students of the CNMI to ensure that their learning is the highest quality" and will do that "whether I am chairman or just a board member." Orsini remains a member of the BOE.

Orsini also provided *Saipan*

*Tribune* with a transcript of his statement to the board: "When I came on as the chairman of the Board of Education, the Public School System saw its hardest times. The pandemic affected our ability to provide quality learning to students, the economy affected our ability to pay our teachers, and the Public School System seemed unable to fulfill its constitutional mandate to provide education for all."

"When I was elected chair-

man of the board, I made several promises: to restore working hours of teachers, to get students back in the classroom, to get the Public School System environmentally and financially sustainable, and when we worked together with the [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] board to have solar panels in every school, I was so happy to say that I've kept and accomplished everything I promised."

"I was an advocate for volun-

tary vaccination, not forced, and I am pleased to know our school system has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world."

"I was an advocate for incentivizing employee retention and, unlike other school systems where large numbers of teachers resigned or walked out, our school teachers have continued working through all the problems that arose."

"The PSS can celebrate the fact that it is now focused on rebuilding damaged schools."

It is now emphasizing Chamorro/Carolinian education. It is giving higher wages for school maintenance and support staff, who've been working hard at our schools for many years."

"I've been an advocate for all of this and can celebrate all these accomplishments," he said.

The other BOE members are teacher representative Ms. Phyllis Ain, CNMI private schools representative Dr. Ron Snyder, and student representative Jed Theresa.



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## SNILD'S COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

### 'Let NMI gov't carry burden in PUA overpayment in case it's DOL's mistake'

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee has recommended that, if an overpayment in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance is not the fault of the person concerned, the CNMI government should carry the burden of that mistake.

In this case, such PUA applicants can be given a waiver on this particular overpayment, said the SNILD JGO Committee, which is chaired by Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), herself a former Labor secretary.

The committee asked the CNMI Department of Labor to consider the Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 16-20, Change 4, giving the authority to the state guarantee like the CNMI government to exercise its prudent judgment and review each particular overpayment case.

Giving such waiver is one of the committee's recommendations in its report on its oversight hearings on PUA.

The SNILD unanimously approved Friday the committee's report during its meeting.

At the Aug. 13, 2021, oversight hearing, the committee said that Labor reported that the Benefit Control Unit found 4,010 overpayment cases as of July 2021, including out of state or territory cases, with 1,868 overpayment cases within the CNMI.

Labor reported overpayments in the amount of \$31.13 million in PUA, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, and Lost Wages Assistance, and collected \$28.02 million in such overpayments.

The committee concluded that it is looking forward to

Labor's implementation of its recommendations regarding the PUA Program.

The committee is also expecting to receive from Labor all the data as requested pursuant to Open Government Act requests and during the hearings.

The committee conducted its PUA oversight hearings last Aug. 13 and 20.

DeLeon Guerrero called the oversight hearing to discuss and review the PUA program process, procedures, status of applications, reported problems with program and the internet portal, as well as to make recommendations on improvements, to receive updates and address several concerns raised by the committee.

The committee also recommended for Labor to polish up and reread data and information on its press releases to make sure that the data and information being communicated is exactly correct and not misleading.

The committee recommended that weekly benefits be paid out instead of a lump sum payment of multiple weeks. The committee pointed out that people are required to file documents weekly to receive their benefits. The committee said if their benefits do not come on time, their car are repossessed, they lose their power, or they lose their telephone line.

The other commendation is for Labor to use the services of the Department of Commerce Statistical Division to design and construct questions for any statistics or survey, just so that there is validity in the survey rather than just some kind of generic survey being formulated within the department and

then people will start questioning the validity of the data.

The committee also recommended, among other things, for Labor to share and train adjudicators on the immigration classification case so that they understand what happened in particular cases, and it will help them adjudicate properly so that they don't mistakenly deny a person erroneously and then make the file an appeal.

PUA provided temporary pandemic unemployment assistance from Jan. 29, 2020 to Sept. 4, 2021.

The PUA program was initially established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 and extended by Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Act of 2021.

The committee finds that individuals who receive at least \$1 of PUA benefits for a week also received an additional \$600 supplemental payment under the FPUC program.

Under the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020, for weeks of unemployment beginning after Dec. 26, 2020, and ending on or before March 14, 2021, an individual collecting PUA may collect a \$300 PFUC payment per week.

DeLeon Guerrero stated in the committee's report that because the CNMI does not have an established unemployment insurance program, Labor experienced problems, obstacles and delays in rolling out the PUA program.

Under the American Rescue Plan Act, DeLeon Guerrero said, for weeks of unemployment beginning after March 13, 2021, and ending on or before

Sept. 4, 2021, an individual collecting PUA may collect a \$300 PFUC payment per week.

However, she said, once the PUA Program was launched, the applicants also experienced problems and delays in applying for and receiving PUA benefits and submitting and uploading documents to the PUA portal.

The senator said committee members as well as all the other SNILD members received numerous complaints or requests

for assistance with their PUA applications and benefits since the launching of the PUA Program in June 2020.

As of the Aug. 13, 2021 oversight hearing, the CNMI received PUA/FPUC funds in the amount of \$706,429,600 and expended \$209,126,352 of those funds, she said.

The senator said Labor received 39,086 applications of which 10,285 applicants were found ineligible, 2,559 applicants

were pending, and 26,242 applicants were deemed ineligible for benefits based on the guidance and applicable laws provided to the CNMI by the U.S. Labor. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

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Pro Se

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the )  
Matter of the )  
Petitioner for the ) FCD CN  
Change of ) CIVIL ACTION  
Name of: ) NO. 21-0514  
C.J. V.R. )  
A Minor Child ) **NOTICE OF**  
By: ) **HEARING**  
Wilfredo G. Escano )  
Petitioner )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 28, 2022 at 9:00am in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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## Coast Guard medevacs contractor from Wake Island

HONOLULU—An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew conducted a medical evacuation on a 56-year-old contractor from Wake Island to Hawaii last Monday.

The contractor was suffering from symptoms of a bacterial infection and was transported to waiting emergency medical services on Oahu. He was reported to be in critical condition.

At 8:10pm, Sunday, Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu received a call from medical staff on Wake Island reporting a contractor was suffering from a four-day history of pain in his hip and was having trouble walking.

The medical staff on Wake Island diagnosed the contractor as having a bacterial infection and reported he required a transport to a higher level of care.

A Coast Guard duty flight surgeon conducted a conference call with the doctor on Wake Island and concurred with his diagnosis and recommended immediate transport.

JRCC Honolulu watchstanders deployed the Hercules aircrew to Wake Island to transport the contractor back to Hawaii.

At 3:30pm, Monday, the Hercules aircrew arrived at Air Station Barbers Point where the contractor was transferred to an awaiting ambulance and brought to Queens Medical Center. (USCG)

## 'Greatest Showgirl 2022' set for Jan. 16

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

"The Greatest Showgirl 2022" organized by Sharmaine Casquero is back on, and will take place during a Saipan Alliance Lions Club dinner on Jan. 16 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

The event was originally set for Nov. 13 last year and dubbed "The Greatest Showgirl 2021" but was cancelled in late October as the CNMI at the time began to see community cases of COVID-19.

Tickets to the event can

be purchased for \$35, with a portion of the proceeds going to T-Project, a transgender nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and creating safe spaces for the CNMI's LGBTQ+ community. Those interested in learning more can call Casquero at 670-788-0932.

In an October interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Casquero said the event will feature two competition segments: a "Best in Costume" and "The Amazing Showgirl." For the costume competition, contestants will be presenting origi-

nally made, fantasy-themed costumes that use the colors of the rainbow, which are colors featured in the LGBTQ+ pride flag. For "The Amazing Showgirl," contestants will dress up and impersonate famous Hollywood celebrities and musicians.

Casquero said in October that nine people have committed to be a part of the show and that she was working with T-Project founder Tyra Sablan to get more members of the community to join. Yesterday, Casquero said the same nine remain committed to partici-

pate on Jan. 16.

Ahead of the event, Casquero asks those who will be attending to comply with all COVID-19 safety measures that will be in place, such as wearing a face mask and bringing with you your vaccination cards. She said the show will begin at exactly 7pm and will run for three hours.

"I would like to ask everyone to watch. ...[It will] be a night of laughter and fun," said Casquero.

In July last year, the editors of American LGBTQ+ magazine *The Advocate* chose Casquero and Sablan to be featured on its list of

"Champions of Pride 2021 From the Territories," a list that also featured Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, who is the first openly gay lieutenant governor in the U.S.

Casquero was recognized by *The Advocate* for organizing the CNMI's first Pride event in 2018 with a celebration at the GIG Discotheque and Bossano Bar in Garapan and for organizing many LGBTQ+ beauty pageants in the CNMI.

Sablan was recognized by *The Advocate* for bringing the need for anti-discrimination and hate crime laws to the attention of the CNMI Legislature, and for founding T-Project.

## HEALTH

From Page 1

or none at all.

The move is a reaction to the severe hospital staffing shortages and crushing caseloads that the omicron variant is causing.

California health authorities announced over the weekend that hospital staff members who test positive but are symptom-free can continue working. Some hospitals in Rhode Island and Arizona have likewise told employees they can stay on the job if they have no symptoms or just mild ones.

The highly contagious omicron variant has sent new cases of COVID-19 exploding to over 700,000 a day in the U.S. on average, obliterating the record set a year ago. The number of Americans in the hospital with the virus is running at about 110,000, just short of the peak of 124,000 last January.

Many hospitals are not only swamped with cases but severely short-handed because of so many employees out with COVID-19.

At the same time, omicron

appears to be causing milder illness than the delta variant.

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that health care workers who have no symptoms can return to work after seven days with a negative test, but that the isolation time can be cut further if there are staffing shortages.

France last week announced it is allowing health care workers with mild or no symptoms to keep treating patients rather than isolate.

In the Phoenix area, Dignity Health, a major hospital operator, sent a memo to staff members saying those infected with the virus who feel well enough to work may request clearance from their managers to go back to caring for patients. Dignity Health hospitals in California have not yet implemented the new guidelines but said it may need to do so in the coming days and weeks.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure our employees can safely return to work while protecting our patients and staff from the transmissibility of COVID-19," Dignity Health said in a statement.

In California, the Depart-

ment of Public Health said the new policy was prompted by "critical staffing shortages." It asked hospitals to make every attempt to fill openings by bringing in employees from outside staffing agencies.

Also, infected workers will be required to wear extra-protective N95 masks and should be assigned to treat other COVID-19-positive patients, the department said.

"We did not ask for this guidance, and we don't have any information on whether hospitals will adopt this approach or not," said Jan Emerson-Shea, a spokesperson for the California Hospital Association. "But what we do know is that hospitals are expecting many more patients in the coming days than they're going to be able to care for with the current resources."

Emerson-Shea said many hospital workers have been exposed to the virus, and are either sick or caring for family members who are.

The 100,000-member California Nurses Association came out against the decision and warned it will lead to more infections.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and

other state health leaders "are putting the needs of health care corporations before the safety of patients and workers," Cathy Kennedy, the association's president, said in a statement. "We want to care for our patients and see them get better—not potentially infect them."

Earlier this month in Rhode Island, a state psychiatric hospital and a rehabilitation center allowed staff who tested positive for COVID-19 but were asymptomatic to work.

At Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital, chief medical officer Dr. Hany Atallah said they are not yet at the breaking point and that workers who test positive are staying away for five days. "We still have to be very careful to prevent spread in the hospital," he said.

Kevin Cho Tipton, a nurse at Jackson Memorial, said he understands why hospitals are eager to have employees come back after five days of isolation. Yet he worries about the potential risk, especially for patients at higher risk of infection, such as those receiving transplants.

"Yes, omicron is less deadly, but we still don't know much," he said.

As for any possible safety measures at Rota's borders, like limiting flights in and out of Rota and travel testing, Mereb said yesterday that such policies are outside the authority of the Rota Mayor's Office. Implementing measures such as arrival screening and testing is within CHCC and/or the Rota Health Center's jurisdiction, said Mereb.

"The municipality of Rota doesn't control the flight schedules of any air carrier operating within the CNMI. ...The [Rota] Mayor's Office has no authority in implementing screenings or testing at the airports for passengers prior to boarding. That role [rests] with CHCC/RHC," he said.

at www.vaccinatecnmi.com.

COVID-19 testing on Rota is available through the Rota Health Center from Monday to Saturday, 1pm to 3pm. The center asks Rota residents to call 670-532-9461/62/63 for more information.

Separately, when asked about COVID-19 safety measures since the onset of cases on Rota, Rota Mayor's Office press secretary Ivan Mereb told *Saipan Tribune* through text yesterday that Mayor Efraim Atalig's focus is on preventing the further spread within the Rota community. Mereb said that Atalig hopes to do this by encouraging others to practice the "3 W's" and to get tested or vaccinated.

Of the 18 new cases in the CNMI, 16 were identified on Jan. 9, 2022 (two on Rota); and two on Jan. 8, 2022

Eight identified via contact tracing, four via community testing, and six via travel testing.

As of Jan. 10, 2022, there were 10 individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, five of them unvaccinated, five vaccinated; one on a ventilator; and two discharged.

Similar to CHCC in its own news releases, the Rota Health Center encourages unvaccinated members of the Rota community to get their COVID-19 shots "to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death." Registering can be done

## HOUSE

From Page 1

outside the House chamber on Capitol Hill.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) confirmed yesterday that they will be acting on the impeachment resolution in today's session that will start at 10am.

To impeach Torres, the House needs two-third votes or 14 representatives to vote "yes" to the impeachment resolution.

House Resolution 22-14, which House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) had introduced, charges the governor with committing felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

As of yesterday, Rep. Celina Babauta said that 13 lawmakers, including herself, have already signed the resolution. Rep. Sheila J. Babauta is the only Democrat representative who has yet to sign it.

A source at the Legislature said that Rep. Sheila Babauta and Villagomez may deliver the "nail in the coffin" 14 and 15 votes, making Torres the second governor in the CNMI history to be impeached.

The 13 who have already signed the impeachment resolution are eight Democrats, two independent, and three Republicans. They are Reps. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan), Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), floor leader Ralph N. Yumul (R-

Saipan), and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

The five others who did not sign the resolution are Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Roy Ada (R-Saipan), Patrick San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan).

In today's session, the majority members are expected to make statements on every six articles of impeachment. Pro-impeachment and Torres' supporters may also speak at the public comment portion of the session.

Torres earlier stated that, although the House has the numbers to impeach him, he does not intend to resign, adding that he is confident in the Senate's ability to be fair, which he said is all that he has been asking for of the Legislature.

The governor described the "false allegations" of the JGO committee against him and his family as "nothing more than a politically charged group of Democrats conspiring to sensationalize misleading information so that they may divide the community and seize power for themselves."

Once Torres is impeached by the House, the nine-member Republican Party-controlled Senate will then hold a trial. Torres is the titular head of the NMI Republican Party.

If six senators vote for his conviction, Torres will be removed from office. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who is running for governor this November, will become the governor, and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) will become the lieutenant governor.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial was the first governor to be impeached, when 16 representatives voted for his impeachment in 2013. Fitial resigned before the Senate could start the trial.

## ROTA

From Page 1

night. The individuals have been isolated and are being actively monitored.

In a news release last Jan. 10, the Rota Health Center said the two new cases were identified through community testing and that both individuals have been isolated and are being actively monitored.

For contact tracing and COVID-19 testing efforts, the Rota Health Center reported that 16 close contacts of the new cases were identified, with all 16 testing negative. It also reported that 228 tests were conducted on Jan. 9.



## KILILI LOOKS AT YEAR IN REVIEW

# '2021 one of our most successful ever'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) says 2021 was one of the most successful ever in his Year in Review published in the e-kilili newsletter this week.

"Projects we have been working on for years—permanent federal funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a permanent increase in Medicaid, food aid equivalent to the national SNAP assistance—all came to fruition this year," Sablan said, "along with unprecedented pandemic payments to individuals in the Marianas and to the Commonwealth government."

Sablan also reported that 402 constituents who requested assistance had their cases successfully resolved during the year.

"It is difficult to imagine how the Marianas would have survived another year of pandemic and economic downturn without the continuing massive assistance we have secured in Congress and working with the new Biden administration," Sablan said. "Even with that help, life remains difficult and uncertain for so many in our islands, a reality I never forget."

### Pandemic assistance front and center

The Year in Review provides monthly highlights of the Marianas congressional office work in 2021, largely focused on pandemic relief. In March, Democrats in Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act, providing economic aid to the people of the Marianas and Americans everywhere. No Republicans voted for the relief bill, which included:

- \$1,400 taxpayer rebates;
- Extended unemployment benefits up to \$645 per week;
- Premium pay for teachers, health staff, and other essential workers, for water and sewer infrastructure, and for Commonwealth government operations from \$483 million relief fund;
- Monthly Child Tax Credit payments of \$250 or \$300, depending on the age of the child, for Marianas families;
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families through a special provision Sablan added to cover the Marianas;
- Earned Income Tax Credit for the Marianas with permanent federal funding;
- \$160 million for Marianas elementary and secondary schools and \$5.8 million for Northern Marianas College;
- Child care: \$5 million to help Marianas providers open or reopen;
- Money for vaccines, testing, personal protective equipment;
- \$30 million more for

Marianas food assistance;

■ \$9 million in emergency aid for airport operations;

■ Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance Grants funding increase, new Restaurant Revitalization Fund created.

In February, at Sablan's urging, the Biden administration reversed a harmful Trump interpretation of Section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I)(kk) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. As a result, individuals, who had their work-hours reduced or were furloughed, while their place of employment stayed open, and who were denied assistance for any week, became eligible for PUA and FPUC retroactively. For CW-1 workers laid off because of COVID-19, this eligibility began with claims filed after Dec. 27, 2020, as a result of the CARES Act amendment Sablan included in U.S. Public Law 116-260.

In January, the Marianas Public School System was awarded \$74.4 million and Northern Marianas College \$3.3 million from the coronavirus relief measure Congress passed in December 2020; and in August, the American Rescue Plan brought another \$160,074,578 to keep students learning and protect the jobs of teachers and staff in light of reduced local appropriations for education.

Also approved in August was the Commonwealth's plan for distributing the increased child tax credit included in the American Rescue Plan Act. Sablan added \$300,000 to the law for the Commonwealth to cover the administrative cost of monthly payments. The Rescue Plan increased the credit to \$3,600 for each child under age 6 and \$3,000 for children age 6 through 17. By November, Marianas families had received \$28,726,000.

And in October, about 2,000 more families became eligible for food stamps and benefits increased 23% because of the \$30 million Sablan included in the American Rescue Plan for Marianas food aid. For a family of four on Saipan the monthly benefit maximum rose to \$1,231, on Rota and the Northern Islands \$1,498, and on Tinian \$1,301. Benefits are now higher than in the contiguous 48 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and more than double what they were when Sablan first came to office in 2009. Sablan also asked Biden to establish \$30 million as the new baseline for Marianas food aid, which the President did in his fiscal year 2022

budget and which the House agreed in the Agriculture appropriation in July.

### No Medicaid 'cliff' for Marianas

Another key area of success was with the Medicaid program that provides health insurance to thousands of Marianas residents. In January, Sablan introduced H.R. 265, The Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act, and lined up 74 cosponsors agreeing to end Medicaid funding caps for the insular areas. He also requested Biden to include Medicaid improvement in his first budget for fiscal year 2022, which the President did.

Then, in September, the Biden Health and Human Services Department, under the direction of Sablan's former House colleague Xavier Becerra, decided that federal Medicaid funding for the Marianas would be \$64,010,000 in fiscal year 2022. Under the previous administration, funding was expected to drop to about \$6 million, but Becerra used Public Law 116-94, which Congress passed in 2019, to set funding at the higher level and provide an inflation increase from now on based on this year's \$64 million. This will eliminate future funding cliffs.

Finally, in December, Congress agreed and Biden signed a continuing funding resolution extending the Medicaid 83/17 federal/local match arrangement for the Marianas and other insular areas. Without this extension, the Commonwealth's cost share would have reverted from 17% to 45% and put at risk those insured by Medicaid. It was Public Law 116-94 that first set the local match at 17%—the lowest in the nation. Sablan led the effort by insular area representatives to make sure the 83/17 FMAP, as it is called, did not fall through the legislative cracks, when the continuing resolution was negotiated.

### Work continues for shark protection, veterans benefits

On Earth Day, Sablan reintroduced the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, H.R. 2811, which bans the possession and sale of shark fins in the United States. Sablan's legislation mirrors Marianas law that already bans the sale, purchase, or possession of shark fins. A majority of House members, 237, from both sides of the aisle have signed on as cosponsors.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 040

Opening Date: January 10, 2022  
Closing Date: January 24, 2022

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	<b>Warehouse Assistant</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>CFO/Warehouse</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA</b>
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	<b>\$16,511.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt</b>
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	<b>Not Contracted</b>
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	<b>One (1)</b>

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee.

#### Duties:

- The Warehouse Assistant assists with physical inventories of stock, materials and supplies; takes material counts and/or verifies counts.
- Prepares, packs, and delivers materials and supplies; receives and responds to division and department material needs and requests.
- Loads and unloads materials and supplies; assists with offloading containers and materials; operates forklift as needed.
- Verifies quantities and quality of materials received; prepares receiving documents and reports; routes and delivers paperwork.
- Maintains order and in worksites and warehouse areas; stocks and restocks inventory materials in designated bin locations; may assist in determining whether materials are scrapped or salvaged.
- Prepares and issues materials for air, sea or postal delivery; reviews pick lists and verifies quantities and material accuracy.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

**Knowledge of:** Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Preparing, packing, issuing and delivering materials and supplies; Verifying material quantities and quality; Providing attention to detail; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

#### Licensing:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

#### Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of object; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 041

Opening Date: January 11, 2022  
Closing Date: January 25, 2022

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	<b>Trades Assistant</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Water Division</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA</b>
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	<b>\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt</b>
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	<b>Not Contracted</b>
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	<b>One (1)</b>

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Resident Manager or his/her designee.

#### Duties:

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

**Knowledge of:** Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

#### Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

# HANMI occupancy at 35% in December



The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 35% average occupancy rate among its 12 member-hotels last December 2021. The figure is seven times higher compared to December 2020, with 15,984 room nights sold this December compared to 2,127 rooms last December.

The occupancy rates do not include venue rentals at Kanoa Resort Saipan for government COVID-19 quarantine accommodations.

“Our original projections for December were stronger, but we faced several unexpected challenges: the new Biden Administration protocols for unvaccinated travel-

ers and now the omicron variant,” said HANMI chairwoman Gloria Cavanagh. “The challenges are continuing into January as well, which has led to the cancellation of both Jeju and T’Way flights from Incheon through the fourth week. With the assistance of Marianas Visitors Authority and the Tourism Investment Resumption Plan program, we are hoping to generate demand for the Marianas toward the end of the month for the beginning of the Lunar New Year holiday and into February and beyond.”

A total of 15,984 of 45,662 available room nights sold during the month. Average room rates were \$138.42 compared to \$144.85 last



Cavanagh

December

Hotels included in HANMI’s monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, Grand-Vrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. It also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. **(PR)**

## Taisacan Jr.’s appointment to Cannabis Commission board affirmed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern

Islands Legislative Delegation confirmed Friday the re-appointment of Valentino N. Taisacan Jr. to serve as a

member of the CNMI Cannabis Commission board representing the Northern Islands.

At SNILD’s session, all 19 members present voted “yes” to adopt the SNILD’s Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee’s report that recom-



Sablan

mends Taisacan’s confirmation as a member of the Cannabis Commission board.

SNILD chair Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) said the adoption of the SNILD JGO Committee’s report makes Taisacan’s appointment official.

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) chairs the SNILD JGO Committee.

Taisacan serves as the treasurer of the Cannabis Commission.

Under the law, the governor shall appoint from the Third Senatorial District three members to the Commission, subject to the advice and consent of the SNILD. One of the three appointed members shall be a voter from the Northern Islands and selected by the Northern Islands’ mayor.

The mayor of Rota and Tinian, shall each appoint from their districts one member to the commission, subject to the consent and advice of the Rota, and Tinian and Agui-guan Legislative delegations.

Nadine C. DeLeon Guerrero, who is representing Saipan, is currently the commission’s chair.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB22-CHCC/CGC-SABG-008**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

**“PURCHASE OF VEHICLE”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055, SAIPAN NP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT**  
**ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE**  
**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TERMINALS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-22**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the “CPA”) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters on the windows and doors along the front side of the arrival and departure terminals, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier’s check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Resolution seeks to authorize MPLT to receive, administer \$15M from ARPA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) has introduced a joint resolution to authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to receive and administer \$15 million as a sub-recipient of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Guerrero pre-filed the House joint resolution, which means he will formally introduce it before the House of Representatives session be-

gins tomorrow, Wednesday.

The lawmaker stated in the resolution that the Commonwealth finds itself today in even more challenging economic times, with the COVID-19 pandemic that has devastated the tourism-based economy with the cessation of air travel; reduction of business activity on the islands; reduced interisland travel; and impact on transportation.

He said following the discussions with the Office of the Governor and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, the MPLT trustees are inclined to

participate with economic recovery as a sub-grant recipient of \$15 million in ARPA funds to address the negative impact of COVID-19.

He said the purpose of the sub-grant is for MPLT to use its experience with investments to administer and manage ARPA funds consistent with the CNMI and U.S. Department of Treasury requirements and guidelines under parallel investment or lending standards.

Guerrero said as with prior loans or investments, the MPLT trustees are counseled that authorizing legislation

is appropriate for the ARPA-MPLT Sub-Grant of \$15 million for MPLT to administer for the CNMI government through the Finance Secretary/Office of the Governor.

He said the trustees have determined that MPLT can assist and be a sub-recipient of the ARPA program without affecting their primary duties and responsibilities in carrying out their fiduciary duties as trustees in their investment decisions.

ARPA became law on March 11, 2021 as U.S. Public Law 117-2. It provides \$350 billion to help states, counties, cities, and tribal governments cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic harm from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guerrero said ARPA created the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to assist the states with relatively flexible funding to assist states and territories in the identified areas, including tourism and transportation for the purposes of economic recovery.

In the CNMI, the Office of the Governor, through the Department Finance, is charged with the administration of ARPA CSLFRF funds for the required purposes and are distributed in the form of grants or sub-grants to eligible entities and non-governmental organizations to fund programs

where most urgently needed in the Commonwealth.

The lawmaker said the U.S. Department of Treasury has promulgated its interim rule outlining the specifics on the use of the ARPA funds, which establish the boundaries or guardrails required by statute, which in-

clude qualifying expenses.

He said those boundaries include the use of funds to respond to or address the COVID-19 as public health emergency or its negative impacts, including assistance, to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

## 6 Guam companies chosen for NAVFAC Marianas projects

**ASAN, Guam**—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas awarded yesterday a \$400 million design-build multiple award construction contract to 10 businesses—including six Guam-based companies—for work within the NAVFAC Marianas area of responsibility.

The indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity design-build contract was awarded to each of the following firms: Agbayanai Construction Corp. of

Daly City, California; Allied Pacific Builders of Dededo, Guam; BME and Sons Inc. of Mangilao, Guam; Fargo Pacific of Tamuning, Guam; LRG Construction JV, LLC of Anchorage, Alaska; Modern International, Inc. of Barrigada, Guam; Sea Pac Engineering, Inc. of Los Angeles, California; Serrano Construction and Development Corp. of Dededo, Guam; Techni-Con Inc. of Mangilao, Guam; and Weldin Construction, LLC of Wasilla, Alaska.

“This DBMACC award further enables our warfighter readiness in Guam and the Marianas by providing critical facilities and engineering requirements for the Department of Defense,” said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Tim Liberatore. “The contract award to six local companies demonstrates the Navy’s enduring partnership with the island’s construction industry to leverage the expertise and talent of our small business community.”

The work to be performed provides for new construction, renovation/modernization, and routine repair/maintenance, by method of design build, at various federal or military facilities and installations in Guam.

The term of this contract is not to exceed 96 months, with an expected completion date of January 2030. The contract was competitively procured via the System for Award Management Contract Opportunities website, with 22 proposals received. **(USN)**

## Power outage today in As Matuis

There will be a scheduled power service interruption today, Jan. 12, 2022, from 8:30am to 2:30pm, affecting As Matuis (Matansa Dr. - east of Tanko Dr., Binadu Dr. and Chalan Matuis).

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will replace a 45-foot wooden power pole with a 45-foot concrete pole, then install two additional concrete power poles for the Water Mitigation Project, and relocate the air break switch to one of

the concrete poles listed.

Nine water wells and a booster station in As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag will be affected. No wastewater facility will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE )  
MATTER ) Civil Action  
OF THE ) No.: 20-0263-CV  
ESTATE OF: )  
JUAN CRUZ )  
CEPEDA ) NOTICE OF  
Decedent. ) HEARING

The Status Conference in this Probate Case is set for the 27th day of January, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMI Superior Court, Room 220A, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2022.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO  
Associate Judge

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055 SAIPAN MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADM@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS TINIAN SEAPORT BUILDING, TINIAN

#### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the “CPA”) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the Tinian Seaport Building, Tinian, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of \$50.00 in cash, cashier’s check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

Date



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-009

## PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 2, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Mr. Joel H. Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email [joel.puyat@cucgov.org](mailto:joel.puyat@cucgov.org) and Mrs. Marcela Tenorio Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Assistant – via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Get the COVID stats right: The two kinds of hospitalization numbers

**F**rom the very beginning of the pandemic, when we called it coronavirus, political leaders tasked with making moment to moment decisions to protect public health have relied on a steady stream of data: new infections, breakthrough cases, variant dominance and tragically, deaths. But COVID hospitalizations have the most critical measure in determining the progress of the disease and if our health care system would collapse or not.

Hospitalizations were reported directly by medical centers and assumed to imply a certain severity, making them a proper gauge of the virus' fluctuating intensity. However, these numbers came with a built-in problem that has only gotten worse in light of omicron's staggering transmissibility and what so far seem like generally milder infections, particularly among the vaccinated: hospitals test everyone who enters their doors for COVID as a matter of course, so many people who went to the hospital for something else—like a broken bone or a bacterial infection—were tallied with the COVID cases if they tested positive after their arrival.

This confusion over what the numbers really mean is hampering our ability to respond. Parents are disconcerted over increasing COVID hospitalizations of children, but a recent CDC survey of six hospitals in several states found that, even during the much deadlier delta wave, almost a fifth of children "had incidental positive SARS-CoV-2 test results" that were "unrelated to the reason for hospitalization." This proportion could be much higher with omicron.

This week, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that New York would become the first state to collect better data by having hospitals report specific numbers for people admitted due to COVID complications and for those who test positive incidentally.

These statistics drive public policy, and so they should be carefully collected and shared: each hospital must follow the exact same rubric, and the state should endeavor to make them public as soon as possible. For crucial decisions around mandates and restrictions, this primary hospitalization number will be the clearest metric we have. It should be weighted accordingly.

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## The lesson of Jan. 6: Jan. 6 still isn't over

**L**ucky countries have celebrations that remind their citizens of what binds them together—think Memorial Day or the Fourth of July.

Unlucky countries do the opposite: They commemorate the divisions that drive them apart.

In Northern Ireland, Protestant militants march noisily on July 12 to remind the Catholic minority which side won the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbs march on Jan. 9 to assert their independence from the groups they fought in their country's war.

After the U.S. Civil War, Southern states celebrated Confederate Memorial Day on a different date than the North's Decoration Day; the holidays didn't merge until World War I.

Last week, with the anniversary of the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6, the United States slipped onto the list of unhappy countries.

The day turned into a festival of national division—not a single, unifying commemoration but three very different observances.

President Joe Biden gave an unexpectedly fiery speech, blaming Donald Trump for inciting the mob that attacked the Capitol and for continuing to stoke the poisonous myth that the 2020 election was stolen.

"The former president of the United States of America has created and spread a web of lies," Biden said. "He's done so because he values power over principle...and because his bruised ego matters more to him than our democracy."

Predictably, Trump rose to the bait, issuing four angry statements from his exile in Mar-a-Lago, all renewing his spurious claims.

"The Big Lie was the election itself," he wrote. The election outcome was "the real insurrection," he said. And he accused the Biden administration of "appalling abuse of political prisoners," an apparent reference to defendants held on federal charges after the riot—a favorite cause of his fringe followers, like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga.

Caught in the middle were Republican leaders who know Trump lost the election but don't want to say so because it would enrage the vengeful former president.

They observed Jan. 6 by offering muddled statements that disapproved of the riot but blamed Democrats for "politicizing" the issue—as if there were any way to avoid connecting the invasion of the Capitol to politics.

"The actions of that day were lawless and as wrong as wrong can be," House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said. The problem now, he complained, is that Democrats "are using it as a partisan political weapon."

It's a difficult straddle to execute, as Sen. Ted Cruz discovered

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times

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when he incautiously described the riot as "a violent terrorist attack," a phrase he has used in the past.

Heresy! Cruz, who ran against Trump for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, was assailed by Trump supporters and subjected to interrogation by Tucker Carlson of Fox News. "It was not a violent terrorist attack," Carlson insisted.

In a scene reminiscent of the show trials of Mao Zedong's China, Cruz promptly recanted his deviation from party doctrine.

"It was a mistake," the Texas Republican said, referring to his statement, not the riot.

Lesson to other Republicans who seek reelection: Don't deviate from Trump's views, or you may be a victim of the GOP's own form of cancel culture.

Trump, who gloried in watching the mob rampage through the Capitol, doesn't appear to want the battle to end. And that's the chief obstacle to getting over the division that remains. It's not about whether sacking the Capitol was right or wrong; even McCarthy can answer that question accurately. It's whether the myth Trump used to rile up the mob—his infinitely debunked claim that the election was stolen—should be embraced or repudiated.

That's not a debate that offers ground for compromise. Either Trump is right, and the current president of the United States is illegitimate—or Trump deliberately set out to overturn a democratic election and is bending the rest of the GOP to his will.

So far, he appears to be succeeding, at least when it comes to radicalizing his party.

That's why Biden, after months of pretending that Trump was no longer there, escalated last week.

"We are in a battle for the soul of America," he said, reviving a slogan from his 2020 campaign. "I did not seek this fight ... but I will not shrink from it, either."

Trump's continuing campaign to deny the president's legitimacy—no ground for compromise there, either—left him little choice.

For a few weeks after Jan. 6, 2021, it was possible to hope that the trauma of the day might unify the country. That didn't happen; the ensuing year only confirmed our division.

The lesson of Jan. 6, 2022, is that Jan. 6 isn't over.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Pets or kids? How about neither?

**P**ope Francis seems like a decent man whose humility and enlightened thinking sometimes put him at odds with more traditional segments of the Catholic Church. But good for him. I'll like him even more when he raises women to equal status in the church, which they'll never have until they can move into management. Still, his heart appears to be in the right place.

Last week, however, the pope's traditionalist side rose to the surface during a General Audience recorded under the date "Wednesday, 5 January 2021 (sic; apparently not everyone in the Vatican is infallible).

In his address, Francis scolds young married couples for not wanting to have children. In fact, he complains good-humoredly, some couples have no children or only one, "but they have two dogs, two cats. ... Yes, dogs and cats take the place of children."

Some of Francis' concern over pairs who prefer pets over progeny reflects his larger concern over falling birthrates in general. He cites a "demographic winter," raising the question of "who will pay the taxes for my pension, if there are no children? ... Who will take care of me?"

Pope Francis doesn't attempt to square these comments with Jesus' injunction in Matthew 6:34: "Take therefore no thought for the morrow." But he can be forgiven for sharing the practical concern for failure to procreate with economists and demographers worldwide.

Appropriately, however, Francis' chief concern is spiritual. He asserts that parenthood is essential to personhood. "Fatherhood and motherhood are the fullness of the life of a person." And "a

man or a woman who do not develop the sense of fatherhood or motherhood, they are lacking something, something fundamental, something important."

Of course, for himself Francis has chosen "spiritual" fatherhood over what he calls—revealingly—"real" fatherhood. But I doubt that he has ever changed a "spiritual" diaper or walked the floor at 3 a.m. with a really sick "real" child.

Francis is a good man, but his advice on this subject should be resisted, for at least two reasons:

First, he is wrong in asserting that a person requires parenthood to have a full, rich, abundant life. How do I know? I have such a life. And so do many other people without children.

Second, the world already has too many people. The carrying capacity of the Earth's resources is subject to debate. But if we haven't already overburdened them beyond their ability to support us, we soon will.

While the world's population continues to grow, the Earth's resources continue to shrink. Rising sea levels and desertification mean less land for a growing population. A disaster is in the making—or it's already here—and the pope's advice isn't helpful.

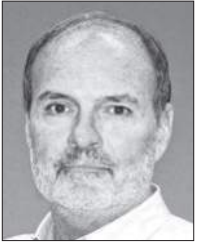
Ironically, Francis' perspective coincides with capitalism's. Our nation's economic model is built on growth, and when we finally reach the point where population growth is no longer sustainable, neither will be our economic model.

And then what? This is, indeed, a spiritual problem. But maybe instead of encouraging more growth, Christianity should heed Jesus' most basic message, which was to be satisfied with what you have and to lay up your treasures in Heaven.

**By JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

*John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com.*



Of course, someone has to have children. Humankind needs to perpetuate itself. I guess. But that doesn't mean that it has to be you.

In fact, if you're worried about overpopulation, climate change, worldwide chaos and the currently shaky foundation of American democracy, maybe you should get a cat rather than a cradle. You may have to send your dog to obedience school, but he will not require an increasingly unaffordable four-year college degree. So get a pet.

Or not. We spend \$100 billion on our pets every year and, in 2018, only \$60 billion on food stamps. But, then, Jesus also said, perhaps too resignedly, "The poor you will always have with you."

America and the world are facing hard times. Look for support wherever you can find it—in your pets, other people, your children, other people's children. But ultimately we'll each have to summon our own inner resources. Other people's advice may not serve us very well. Even the pope's.

## The ocean needs our help—now

**By DAVID HELVARG and JASON SCORSE**  
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

**O**ur two organizations, Blue Frontier and the Center for the Blue Economy, were among the first, in 2019, to highlight how our public seas must play a central role in national climate policy. The ocean, after all, is the planet's major sequesterer of heat and carbon, as well as the source of vast quantities of carbon-free energy from winds, tides and currents. Coastal communities, from those of Native Alaskans to condo residents in south Florida, are on the frontlines for rising sea level impacts.

Back in spring 2019, when key Democrats outlined the Green New Deal, ocean issues were conspicuously absent, so we got to work building a broad, diverse national coalition of hundreds of stakeholders to develop an Ocean Climate Action Plan. The framework was completed in July 2020 and focused on ocean and coastal resources across various sectors of the economy, including offshore renewable energy. One of Joe Biden's first acts as president was the signing of an executive order to expand offshore wind capabilities.

In a dozen opinion pieces and hundreds of Zoom meetings, we advocated for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and coastal

restoration of living shorelines plus the widely supported call for protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

Smart blue investments like these can lead to a robust coastal economy, generating hundreds of thousands of jobs and tens of billions in investment. They provide a wide range of environmental benefits, and improve people's health and safety, all the while helping the United States meet its climate goals.

Congresswoman Deb Haaland of New Mexico (now the nation's first Indigenous secretary of the interior) agreed with our goals, stating: "We all need to care about the ocean no matter where we live. ... That's why I've included elements of the Ocean Climate Action Plan into several of my own bills."

In March, Biden announced his support for producing 30 gigawatts of stored energy by 2020, one of the elements of our plan. Many of our recommendations appeared in the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act that was introduced in Congress in the fall of 2020, with a revised version in the Democratic-controlled House in 2021.

We were also pleased to see that many of the investments we advocated for were ultimately incorporated into the House version of the Build Back Better bill that passed in November; these included \$6 billion for coastal restoration along with \$4 billion for greening ports and shipping.

Unfortunately, the Democrats have no margin for error in the 50-50 Senate, and the stated refusal of West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin to support the Senate version of the Build Back Better bill puts passage of these investments in jeopardy. But let's be clear: A new version of the Build Back Better bill must pass if we are to protect our coastal population.

We call on all Democrats and members of the Biden administration to take a deep breath (more than half of our oxygen comes from the ocean) and head back to the negotiating table with clear goals in sight. Manchin says he wants a few domestic spending programs that are funded for a full 10 years, instead of a larger number of proposals with differing end dates.

That's acceptable. What is nonnegotiable are the climate policies needed for the U.S. to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets and rebuild our economy in a secure and just manner, from sea to shining sea.

*David Helvarg is an author and executive director of Blue Frontier, an ocean conservation and policy group. Jason Scorse is director of the Center for the Blue Economy at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Facts and evidence

The governor has stirred up his hornet's nest and they are all over the comment section, stinging people whenever they can for simply looking at the facts from a fair and balanced perspective. I reiterate that when the JGO first started, I predicted that the real test of the Legislature to place a check on the governor would depend on the Senate and now my prediction has come to fruition. If you were a juror of the JGO and watched all the evidence presented on the governor's activities, you would be hard pressed not to convict him, especially when there is no evidence to support a "not guilty" verdict. Hopefully the senators are not stupid.

The governor clearly faced a fair and balanced process with the JGO and the governor had plenty of opportunities to balance the process and offer a defense but he chose not to. In fact, the governor put up a fight, even going to court in an attempt to avoid testifying and putting on a defense on his behalf after claiming he had nothing to hide and he even promised to explain everything. It is clear the governor was being disrespectful to a

legal process he swore to uphold in our Constitution because it was being conducted by a Democrat-controlled House but now that the process moves to the Republican-controlled Senate, he is pleading to be invited so he can put his spin on the evidence, like he did on the radio.

It seems the governor thinks he can repeat our thwarted history and even talk his way out of this with the help of the Republican-controlled Senate, which is a movie we already saw with Republican governor Fitial whom they refused to impeach. I beg the Senate: Do you really want to repeat the same old ugly history of the Republican Party failing to hold their governor accountable? If the Republican-controlled Senate hasn't learned their lesson taught to us by our own history of failing to hold the governor accountable, then we the people will just have to "re-teach" them come November.

The investigation by the JGO is not about party or politics but about breaking the law and for the governor to try and turn the

JGO Investigation into a political football was the only power play he could run. But he has created a genuine division among our people that runs deep and I can assure the governor it won't turn out good for him in the end, as he faces the Senate, the feds, and voters. The governor is behaving more and more like Trump with his defiance and even his illegal obstruction of the JGO investigation. The governor is fighting dirty and so are his emissaries who continue to defend and promote him.






Everyone with common sense can see that the governor is trying to set the Senate up to clear him as if we the people are suckers. But there is a saying that applies to this governor: "You can fool some of the people some of the time but you can't fool all the people all the time" and we nor the Senate should be fooled by this governor!

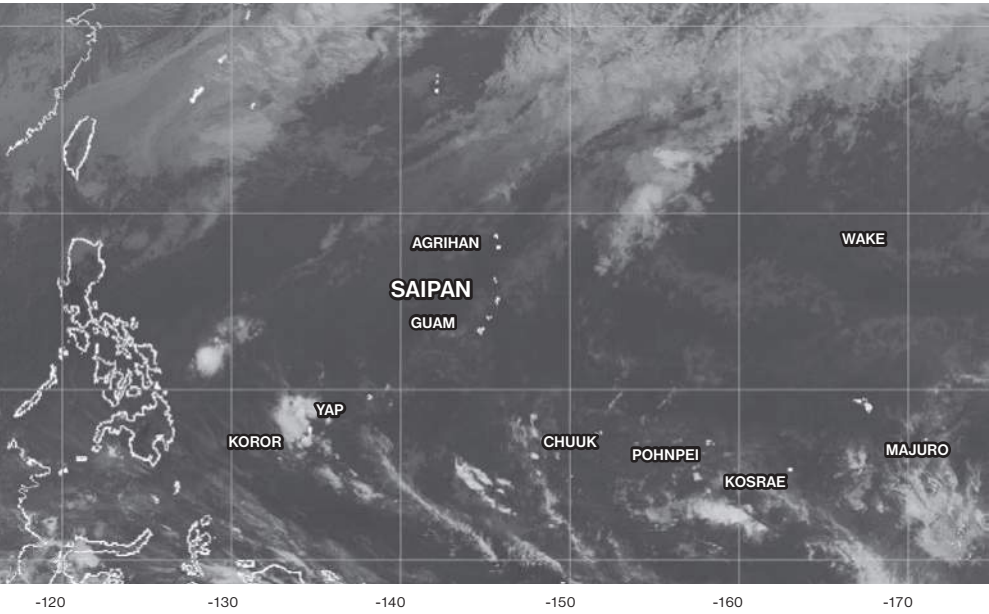
**Ambrose M. Bennett**

*Kagman, Saipan*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 5 to 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly sunny with scattered showers.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers.	
86°	76°	76°	86°	76°	85°	87°	76°	75°	85°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trough in the trade winds is producing morning clouds and patchy showers. Satellite shows clearer skies farther upstream to the east/southeast. Ipan buoy pegs seas around 5 feet with more exposed seas likely around 6 feet or so.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	85 / 75 °F	
Palau	PM Thunderstorms	85 / 77 °F	
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	84 / 77 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	84 / 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86 / 78 °F	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86 / 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 / 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:46 AM	18:04 PM
Thursday	06:46 AM	18:04 PM
Friday	06:46 AM	18:05 PM
Saturday	06:46 AM	18:05 PM
Sunday	06:46 AM	18:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	01:50 PM	13:37 PM
Wednesday	-	02:39 PM	14:17 PM
Thursday	-	03:29 PM	15:00 PM
Friday	-	04:21 AM	15:46 PM
Saturday	-	05:12 PM	16:35 PM

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
<b>GUAM-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-GUAM</b>			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
<b>SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)</b>				<b>INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6	7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6	TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Business

## Toyota Dream Car Art Contest happening now

Atkins Kroll is now accepting entries for the 15th Annual Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, which is open to students ages five to 15 and residing in Guam and the Northern Marianas.

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest began in 2004 in Japan and continues to be the largest international art contest that gives children not only the opportunity to share their ideas about the future of automobiles but also encourages children to pursue their dreams. Toyota believes in nurturing the creativity of the next generation of inventors, thinkers, and innovators. Every great idea was born in the glimmer of a dream.

Children are asked to use their imagination and draw "My Dream Car" using any standard drawing medium such as color pencils, crayons, watercolors, or markers on an 11-inch height by 17-inch width paper with a maximum



This 2021 submission by Jeremiah Perez in the 7 and under category placed first in Guam. His submission was titled "Space Team Exploration." Perez describes his Toyota Dream Car as "built for explorations like fixing satellites and giving vaccines such as COVID-19 vaccines. It flies in space and hovers over the earth."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
This 2021 submission titled "Thousand Picks" by Clara Kim placed third in Guam in the 8 to 11 years old category. She says "Thousand Picks helps the earth. It cleans animals' habitats to help them. Thousand Picks also turns the trash it collects into plants so more oxygen can be released."

Last year, Saipan resident Jeewoo Son, a 13-year-old student at Mount Carmel Catholic School, won the Mobility for All special award. She received extraordinary recognition from Toyota Motor Corporation for her "WRAP CAR." World, Rescue, Assist, Protect is a car that saves and cures people

from all natural disasters and viruses on earth. Her submission was part of 1,190,000 entries from 75 countries and regions. Both she and her school received a cash prize from Toyota Motor Corp.

For more information about this year's Toyota Dream Car Art Contest email [athena.ramos@akguam.com](mailto:athena.ramos@akguam.com). (PR)

## Home COVID tests to be covered by insurers starting on Saturday

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Starting Saturday, private health insurers will be required to cover up to eight home COVID-19 tests per month for people on their plans. The Biden administration announced the change Monday as it looks to lower costs and make testing for the virus more convenient amid rising frustrations.

Under the new policy, first detailed to the AP, Americans will be able to either purchase home testing kits for free under their insurance or submit receipts for the tests for reimbursement, up to the monthly per-person limit. A family of four, for instance, could be reimbursed for up to 32 tests per month. PCR tests and rapid tests ordered or administered by a health provider will continue to be fully covered by insurance with no limit.

President Joe Biden faced criticism over the holiday season for a shortage of at-home rapid tests as Americans traveled to see family amid the surge in cases from the more transmissible omicron variant. Now the administration is working to make COVID-19 home tests more accessible, both by increasing supply and bringing down costs.

Later this month, the federal government will launch a website to begin making 500 million at-home COVID-19 tests available via mail. The administration also is scaling up emergency rapid-testing sites in areas

experiencing the greatest surges in cases.

The insurer-covered testing would dramatically reduce costs for many Americans, and the administration hopes that by easing a barrier to more regular at-home testing, it can help slow the spread of the virus, get kids back into school more quickly and help people gather safely.

"This is all part of our overall strategy to ramp up access to easy-to-use, at-home tests at no cost," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement. "By requiring private health plans to cover people's at-home tests, we are further expanding Americans' ability to get tests for free when they need them."

Biden announced the federal requirement late last year, and it kicks in on Jan. 15, but the administration had been silent until now on details of the plan.

The administration is trying to incentivize private insurers to cover the tests up-front and without a cumbersome reimbursement process. Insurance plans that work with pharmacies and retailers to cover the up-front costs of the tests will be required to reimburse only up to \$12 per test if purchased through an out-of-network retailer. Plans that don't move proactively to set up a network of pharmacies would have to cover the full retail price that the customer paid—which could be more than \$12 per test.

thickness of five-mm.

The contest is open to students in the following age categories: 7 and under; 8 to 11; and 12 to 15 years. Students must currently reside in Guam

or the Northern Marianas. Submissions are due by Monday, Jan. 31, 2022, and may be submitted to the Atkins Kroll Toyota Showroom in Guam or on Saipan.

## Airbus says deliveries of new airline jets are nosing higher

Airbus said Monday that it delivered 611 passenger jets in 2021, an 8% increase over 2020 but an indication that airlines are still cautious about adding new planes during a pandemic that has reduced travel worldwide.

More than three-quarters of last year's deliveries were for

planes in Airbus' A320 family, which are mostly used for short and medium-length flights. Deliveries of wide-body, two-aisle planes continued to lag, reflecting the much slower recovery in international flights.

U.S. rival Boeing is scheduled to report 2021 deliveries

and orders on Tuesday.

Airbus entered December with a large lead over Boeing in deliveries, as Boeing halted deliveries of its 787 jetliner because of production flaws and struggled to boost output of 737 Max jets. Boeing began December with more orders,

but Airbus ended the year with a flurry of sales to make that a close race.

Airbus, based in Toulouse, France, said it took in a net of 507 orders last year after subtracting cancellations. Gross orders before cancellations were roughly double its year-earlier total. (AP)

## Docomo Pacific partner with Apple reseller in Guam

**TAMUNING, Guam**—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, and Beyond the Box Guam have teamed up to deliver greater options and convenience.

Beyond the Box Guam is the island's most popular store for premium Apple products and for customers looking to buy Apple iPhone handsets and accessories without an annual contract. With this partnership, BTB will be an exclusive authorized dealer for Docomo Pacific wireless services. Now, new and existing customers of BTB can purchase the latest Apple devices with the convenient option to add mobile services through a Docomo Pacific Prepaid or Postpaid Mobile Plan, all in one place.

"Our first partnership with Docomo Pacific is truly one of a kind. We focus on strong branding and strong individuality making Beyond the Box and Docomo Pacific perfect for Guam," said Charles Paw, president of Beyond the Box



Docomo Pacific and Beyond the Box Guam employees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam and Philippines.

Tom Valderrama, Docomo Pacific's executive vice president, Consumer Business Unit, said that Docomo Pacific "is always looking for new and exciting ways to serve our customers. Our

partnership with a strong brand such as Beyond the Box allows us to expand locations where customers can access our services."

Beyond the Box is hosting an iPhone 13 giveaway contest in celebration of the

partnership! Sign-up for a Docomo Pacific Access \$60 or \$80 plan in the Beyond the Box Guam Micronesia Mall location from Jan. 10 through Jan. 30 for an official entry. On Jan. 31, 2022, one lucky winner will be selected. (PR)



# Nation

## Safety doors failed in NYC high-rise fire that killed 17

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Investigators sought answers Monday for why safety doors failed to close when fire broke out in a New York high-rise, allowing thick smoke to rise through the tower and kill 17 people, including eight children, in the city's deadliest blaze in more than three decades.

A malfunctioning electric space heater apparently started the fire Sunday in the 19-story building in the Bronx, fire officials said. The flames damaged only a small part of

the building, but smoke poured through the apartment's open door and turned stairwells into dark, ash-choked death traps. The stairs were the only method of escape in a tower too tall for fire escapes.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the apartment's front door and a door on the 15th floor should have been self-closing and blunted the spread of smoke, but the doors stayed fully open. It was not clear if the doors failed mechanically or if they

had been manually disabled. Nigro said the apartment door was not obstructed.

The heavy smoke blocked some residents from escaping and incapacitated others as they tried to flee, fire officials said. Firefighters carried out limp children and gave them oxygen and continued making rescues even after their air supplies ran out.

Glenn Corbett, a fire science professor at John Jay College in New York City, said closed doors are vital to containing

fire and smoke, especially in buildings that do not have automatic sprinkler systems.

"It's pretty remarkable that the failure of one door could lead to how many deaths we had here, but that's the reality of it," Corbett said. "That one door played a critical role in allowing the fire to spread and the smoke and heat to spread vertically through the building."

Dozens of people were hospitalized, including several in critical condition. Mayor Eric Adams called it an "unspeak-

able tragedy" at a news conference near the scene Monday.

"This tragedy is not going to define us," Adams said. "It is going to show our resiliency."

Adams lowered the death toll from an initial report Sunday, saying that two fewer people were killed than originally thought. Nigro said patients were taken to seven hospitals and "there was a bit of a double count."

The dead included children as young as 4 years old, City Council Member Oswald Feliz said.

An investigation was underway to determine exactly how the fire spread and whether anything could have been done to prevent or contain the blaze, Nigro said.

A fire department official said the space heater had been running for a "prolonged period" before the fire began. What caused it to malfunction remains under investigation, spokesman Frank Dwyer said. Fire then spread quickly to nearby furniture and bedding, Dwyer said.

Nigro said the heat was on in the building before the fire started, and the space heater was

being used to supplement it.

But Stefan Beauvogui, who lived with his wife in the building for about seven years, said cold was an ongoing problem in his fourth-floor apartment. Beauvogui said he had three space heaters for the winter—for the bedrooms and the sitting room. The heating system that was supposed to warm the apartment "don't work for nothing." He said he had complained, but it had not been fixed.

Large, new apartment buildings are required to have sprinkler systems and interior doors that swing shut automatically to contain smoke and deprive fires of oxygen, but those rules do not apply to thousands of the city's older buildings.

The building was equipped with self-closing doors and smoke alarms, but several residents said they initially ignored the alarms because they were so common in the 120-unit building.

Bronx Park Phase III Preservation LLC, the group that owns the building, said it was cooperating fully with the fire department and the city and working to assist residents.

## In 1st, US surgeons transplant pig heart into human patient

By CARLA K. JOHNSON  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

In a medical first, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life and a Maryland hospital said Monday that he's doing well three days after the highly experimental surgery.

While it's too soon to know if the operation really will work, it marks a step in the decades-long quest to one day use animal organs for life-saving transplants. Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center say the transplant showed that a heart from a genetically modified animal can function in the human body without immediate rejection.

The patient, David Bennett, a 57-year-old Maryland handyman, knew there was no guarantee the experiment would work but he was dying, ineligible for a human heart transplant and had no other option, his son told The Associated Press.

"It was either die or do this transplant. I want to live. I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice," Ben-



In this photo provided by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, members of the surgical team perform the transplant of a pig heart into patient David Bennett in Baltimore on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022.

nett said a day before the surgery, according to a statement provided by the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

On Monday, Bennett was breathing on his own while still connected to a heart-lung machine to help his new heart. The next few weeks will be critical as Bennett re-

covers from the surgery and doctors carefully monitor how his heart is faring.

There's a huge shortage of human organs donated for transplant, driving scientists to try to figure out how to use animal organs instead. Last year, there were just over 3,800 heart transplants in the U.S., a record number, according to

the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system.

"If this works, there will be an endless supply of these organs for patients who are suffering," said Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin, scientific director of the Maryland university's animal-to-human transplant program.

## Pilot rescued from wreckage in LA moments before train hits

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The pilot of a small plane averted death twice in a span of minutes on Sunday, first when he crash-landed onto railroad tracks, then when Los Angeles police rescued him just before a commuter train smashed into the aircraft.

Bodycam video showed the officers working furiously to disentangle the bloodied pilot from the cockpit of the crumpled Cessna 172.

"Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!" someone yelled as the officers dragged the man away seconds before the Metrolink train, its horn blaring, barreled through the plane.

The single-engine plane had

engine failure during takeoff from Whiteman Airport in the San Fernando Valley community of Pacoima and went down moments later, police Capt. Christopher Zine told reporters.

The plane ended up on a rail crossing in an intersection adjacent to the airport and just blocks from the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill Division station. Officers arrived at the crash scene almost immediately.

"I had requested Metrolink to cease all train activity, but apparently that didn't happen," Sgt. Joseph Cavestany told CBSN Los Angeles.

Officer Christopher Aboyte told KABC-TV that he ini-

tially stood by the plane trying to keep the pilot, who was seated, conscious and alert.

Then, bells and flashing lights signaled an oncoming train, Officer Robert Sherock told the station.

"We looked and sure enough there was a train headed right for us at full speed," he said.

Officer Damien Castro told KNBC-TV that training and experience kicked in, and adrenaline helped.

"When things like that happen you kind of just go and do it," Castro said. "You don't really have much time to think."

The bodycam captured the sight and sound of the train

blasting through where the pilot had been seconds earlier.

"I think this guy needs to buy a lottery ticket 'cause he pretty much cheated death twice within 10 minutes," Sherock told KNBC.

The pilot was the only person on board and was taken to a hospital for treatment, the Los Angeles Fire Department said. He was not identified and no other injuries were reported.

Metrolink service was halted and road traffic was detoured in the area about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

## New Mexico woman accused of abandoning newborn in dumpster

**HOBBS, N.M. (AP)**—An 18-year-old New Mexico woman is facing charges after police say she abandoned her newborn baby in a dumpster.

A group of people was looking through a dumpster for anything of value Friday in Hobbs, near the Texas border, when they heard what they thought was a dog or kitten, Hobbs Police Chief August Fons said during a news conference Monday. They moved a trash bag and found a baby inside, wrapped in a dirty blanket with its umbilical cord still attached.

They immediately called authorities and tried to keep the boy warm until police and paramedics arrived. Authorities estimated the child had been in the dumpster for about six hours before he was discovered.

"Their collective quick response to this emergency, including notification of 911, was absolutely pivotal in saving this baby's life," Fons said.

Officers administered aid before paramedics took the child to the hospital. The baby has since been transferred to a hospital in Lubbock, Texas, and is in stable condition.

Investigators used surveillance video to identify a car suspected of being involved.

That led them to Alexis Avila, of Hobbs, who admitted to giving birth at another location and then leaving the baby in a dumpster.

Fons said during the interview with detectives, Avila said she was not aware that she was pregnant until Jan. 6 when she sought medical attention for abdominal pain. She told detectives that she was experiencing stomach pain the next day and unexpectedly gave birth.

"She further explained that she panicked and did not know what to do or who to call," Fons said.

According to a court document, Avila told authorities she started driving around until she decided to place the baby inside a dumpster near a shopping area.

Search warrants for Avila's car and her family's home turned up blood evidence, clothing and a towel.

She was booked on a charge of attempted first-degree murder or in the alternative felony child abuse. Prosecutors said the charge will be determined during an upcoming preliminary hearing.

Ibukun Adepoju, a public defender who is representing Avila, said in a statement that her client is "barely 18 herself."



# Asia

## N. Korea fires possible missile

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Tuesday fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile into its eastern sea, its second weapons launch in a week, the militaries of South Korea and Japan said.

This month's launches follow a series of weapons tests in 2021 that underscored how North Korea continues to expand its military capabilities during a self-imposed pandemic lockdown and deadlocked nuclear talks with the United States.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea likely fired a single ballistic mis-

sile from an inland area to its eastern sea, and that the South Korean and U.S. militaries were analyzing the launch. It didn't immediately say how far the weapon flew.

Japan's Prime Minister's Office and Defense Ministry also said the weapon was possibly a ballistic missile, but officials didn't immediately provide more details.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said officials were checking the safety of ships and aircraft around Japan, but there were no immediate reports of disruptions or damage.

"It is extremely regrettable that North Korea has contin-

ued to fire" missiles so soon after the U.N. Security Council discussed its response to the North's earlier launch, Kishida said.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense said they were monitoring the reports of the launch but that no immediate threat was assessed for Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific.

The launch came six days after North Korea fired a ballistic missile into the sea in what it later described as a successful test of a hypersonic missile, a type of weaponry it claimed to have first tested in September.

## PH has 3rd day of record virus cases

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines on Monday reported a record high number of new COVID-19 cases for the third day, logging 33,169 infections.

The positivity rate, or percentage of tested people whose results came out positive, also soared to 46%, another record high since the pandemic started two years ago.

Monday's tally brings the Philippines' total infection count nearer to the 3 million mark at 2,998,530. The death toll stood at 52,293 with 145

new deaths recorded.

Officials said they are assuming that local transmission of the highly contagious omicron variant is driving the current spike in cases.

Some experts have called for increased restrictions as cases surge and hospital operations are being hobbled by the number of infected health workers. But officials said on Monday that there is still no need to raise the alert to the fourth level of the five-step alert system.

The capital region Metro

Manila and several provinces and cities are under under Alert Level 3 until January 15. Prohibited activities include in-person classes, live voice and wind instrument events, contact sport, and fairs. Operations of casinos and gatherings in residences of people who do not belong to the same household are also not allowed. Restaurants, gyms, barbershops, and other establishments can operate only at 30% capacity indoors for fully vaccinated customers and 50% outdoors.

## Anti-tank mine kills 3 demining experts in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A anti-tank mine left over from Cambodia's civil war exploded on Monday killing three members of a local demining team as they carried out their work, their organization announced.

The group Cambodia Self Help Demining said in a Facebook post that the team of experts had been responding to an alert in the northern province of Preah Vihear. The area saw combat between government forces and guerrillas of the communist Khmer Rouge in the 1990s.

Almost three decades of civil war that ended in 1998 left Cambodia littered with land mines and other unexploded ordnance. An estimated 4 million to 6 million uncleared land mines and other pieces of unexploded ordnance remain in the country and continue to kill villagers who come upon them.

"There was an explosion, resulting in the deaths of three team members and the injury to a fourth," said the Facebook message posted by Bill Morse, the American founder of the Landmine Relief Fund, a U.S. charity that helps support the



Children play near a landmine warning and a Buddhist shrine in New Village Border, Cambodia, March 10, 2005, along the Thai border.

Cambodian deminers. "An investigation of the incident has begun and is ongoing."

According to the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, there were 64,950 casualties, including 19,806 deaths, caused by land mines and other explosive remnants of war from January 1979 to July 2021. It said the number of casualties per year had fallen from 4,320 in 1996 to 65 in 2020.

Heng Ratana, the chief of the Cambodian Mines Action Center, the government agency that oversees mine clearance, said Monday's ac-

cidental deaths were caused by an anti-tank land mine. He said around 20 minutes before it exploded, another piece of unexploded ordnance killed a villager in the same spot who was clearing ground to plant cassava.

The victims' names were not immediately available.

"These brave men have risked everything for years in the service of their country and humanity," said Morse, the American supporter of their group. "On Monday they sacrificed their lives to make others safe. We honor their lives, and their sacrifice."

# World

## Italy targets unvaccinated with new virus restrictions



Cars line up at a rapid swab testing drive-thru site in Rome, Dec. 30, 2021.

AP

ROME (AP)—Italy targeted the unvaccinated with a host of new coronavirus restrictions Monday, with proof of vaccination or recovery from a recent infection required to enter public transport, cafes, hotels, gyms and other popular venues.

The new "super" health pass requirement, which eliminates the ability to show just a negative test to gain access to services, comes as many Italians returned to work and school after the Christmas and New Year's holidays and as Italy's new

COVID-19 infections are soaring past 100,000 per day.

The government has responded to the omicron-fueled wave of infections by passing new restrictions aimed at encouraging vaccine holdouts to get their jabs or be increasingly shut out of recreational and even essential activities, such as taking a bus or subway to work.

Italians have generally supported the restrictions, which in recent months have also included outdoor mask mandates and a standard health pass to get into work-

places. The new restriction were enforced Monday by police fanning out at train stations to check passengers' vaccine status and make sure they were wearing the more protective Ffp2 face masks, which were now required on public transport.

"I'm happy that they are controlling everywhere," said Carola, Pasqualotto, a member of the Imperi sport center where the front desk was checking members' vaccination status. "I am in favor of mandatory vaccines for all."

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Ortega sworn in for 4th straight term as Nicaragua's leader

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega was sworn in for a fourth consecutive term Monday following elections considered rigged and on a day marked by sanctions from the United States and European Union against members of his government. Alongside him was first lady Rosario Murillo, sworn in for her second term as his vice president. "We are going to continue fighting to defend the people so they have health care, education and housing," the former Sandinista commander said in the capital's Revolution Plaza filled with the waving flags of his party. Ortega, 76, and Murillo, 70, oversaw the jailing of opposition leaders, including seven potential challengers for the presidency, months before the November election. They have remained defiant under foreign pressure.

#### No progress seen after Russia-US talks over Ukraine tensions

GENEVA (AP)—The United States and Russia locked horns over Ukraine and other security issues Monday with no sign of progress from either side at highly anticipated strategic talks. Low expectations from both Washington and Moscow about the high-stakes session in Geneva appeared to have been met as senior diplomats from the two countries emerged without offering any hint of success. Neither side characterized the meeting as a complete failure, but neither did they offer any prospect of easing the increasingly worri-

some standoff over Russia's military buildup on its border with Ukraine that the West sees as a fundamental threat to European security. Nor was there any indication of movement on other, perhaps less-explosive matters that have vexed the U.S.-Russia relationship. Moscow insists on guarantees to halt NATO's eastward expansion and even roll back the military alliance's deployments in Eastern Europe, while Washington firmly rejects the demands as a nonstarter.

#### Uganda's schools reopen, ending world's longest lockdown

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Uganda's schools reopened to students on Monday, ending the world's longest school disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The reopening caused traffic congestion in some areas of the capital, Kampala, and students can be seen carrying their mattresses in the streets, a back-to-boarding school phenomenon not witnessed here for nearly two years. Uganda's schools have been fully or partially shut for more than 83 weeks, the world's longest disruption, according to figures from the U.N. cultural agency. The shutdown affected more than 10 million learners. The East African country of 44 million people first shut down its schools in March 2020, shortly after the first coronavirus case was confirmed on the African continent. Some classes were reopened to students in February 2021, but a total lockdown was imposed again in June as the country faced its first major surge.



# Good Housekeeping

(SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/  
HANDOUT/TNS)  
A layered bed helps to  
create a luxurious feel  
in this bedroom space.



## How to make your *bedroom* your favorite room in the house

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

For many people, the bedroom is a key room, one in which much of the day is spent. From a design standpoint, it's a place into which you may want to invest in elevating your decor.

How do you make a bedroom your favorite room in the house?

### Create a mood

To help springboard your design vision, ask yourself a series of questions. How do you want your bedroom space to make you feel? Do you want the space to feel warm and cozy or cool and tranquil? Whatever you choose, you are going to want to make the right selections that will help set the right balance. Warm colors will help make a space feel cozy,

while cool colors will create a more tranquil and calm feeling.

### Select a design aesthetic

What is your aesthetic? Modern or traditional? Once you know your own personal style and desire, this will provide direction as you select the perfect bedding. More modern? Think of clean elements, such as piping or stripes and clean, graphic

prints. Traditional? Look for soft fabrics and small simple prints.

### What is the most important upgrade you should make to a bedroom?

Do you love your bed? Will it stand the test of time? Quality really should be a driving force when it comes to selecting a bed. Look for a bed made out of sturdy and strong materials. If selecting a bed with upholstered elements, consider materials such as leather or stain-resistant fabrics. Next should be your selection of a long-lasting foundation, meaning a high-quality mattress.

Choosing a mattress should be done with great care. If possible, see, touch and feel the product in person. After mattress selection, concentrate on top of bed, focusing on great quality sheets, pillows and duvet inserts and covers.

When designing a bed from scratch, what should top your list?

### Must-haves

When creating the ideal bed, a key designer tip is layering. Many designers believe this is the secret to a sumptuous bed. While a great mattress is essential, don't overlook the opportunity to create beauty in the top-of-bed selections.

## How much does it cost to install countertops?

By OSEYE BOYD  
ANGIE'S LIST

While looking for new countertops, you find an amazing deal on granite for \$29.99 per square foot.

Yes, score!

That sounds super-affordable, and once you measure your current countertops and calculate the square footage, you'll have the price for installing new countertops, right?

Not so fast, say countertop installers.

### Pricing factors for countertops

"Some people charge for an edge and some don't, depending on what you select," says Gary Rogers, owner of AGS Stone & Tampa Bay Kitchen and Bath of Tampa, Florida. "Edge selection is going to impact price of the countertop. In our price, we include five standard edge detail options; some companies, each edge has its own price."

The real countertop installation cost not only includes the price of the material, but also the price for the tear out, modifications, edging and sealing, as well as cutouts for

outlets, sinks and plumbing. Depending on the contractor, these costs may or may not be included in the per-square-foot cost of materials.

Troy Hansen, owner of Hansen's Custom Countertop Services of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, says it's extremely important to ask what's included in the square-foot price. "That's the No. 1 question you have to know."

### Granite countertops and quartz countertops

Material costs also vary depending on the quality and color. Granite, a natural stone, and quartz, an engineered stone, include two of the most popular countertop types.

Countertop installers say cheap granite could signal the product has blemishes and may crack over time.

"There's only three things that make up the cost of granite—the supply and demand, the part of the world it comes from and how hard it is to excavate from the earth," says Dave Carver of Jim Carver & Sons of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Carver says his entry-level granite countertops cost \$50 to \$55 per square foot, while basic quartz coun-

tertops typically cost \$75 to \$85 per square foot.

Hansen says his basic granite countertops start around \$60 to \$65 per square foot, while entry-level quartz runs in the high \$70 range. He says homeowners need to know the origin of the granite they plan to purchase. Highly discounted granite countertops may come from a warehouse with a huge stockpile of inferior product.

"You need to know the origin of the granite," Hansen warns. "Because it says Brazil in the name doesn't mean it came from Brazil. You need to see the paper work. If they don't have the paper work, you don't want it."

Both Hansen and Rogers say the best way to calculate the cost of installing kitchen countertops is to draw a sketch of your kitchen, include all the features you want, such as backsplash, type of edging and material thickness and take the measurements to a countertop contractor.

"Shop that," Hansen says. "Don't worry about the square foot cost because that's such a small part of it. Unless you know what's included in the square foot, it's so irrelevant."

### NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON  
(C) 2022 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ Freshen stuffed animals by securing a few in a pillowcase and adding a fabric softener sheet. Put in the dryer on low heat for 20 minutes, then remove and brush out the fur, if necessary, while still warm.

■ "Keep a quart container in the freezer and whenever you have a small amount of leftovers, chop them up and add it to your container. When it's full, thaw it. Add some of your favorite soup beans, pizza sauce, milk and cheese, and you have a unique and delicious soup."—M. from Pennsylvania

■ If you've been decluttering as a part of your New Year's resolutions, and you came across old pairs of eyeglasses, know that you can donate them to any Lion's Club in your area. They redistribute the glasses to those who cannot afford them. You

don't have to know the prescription, and they take reading glasses, too!

■ How can you keep snow and ice off your windshield? Some say a solution of three parts vinegar to one-part water sprayed on the windshield each night can cut your ice-scraping time in half or better. (Use caution to avoid your paint job.) Also, try covering your wipers with an old pair of long socks so they don't freeze to the glass!

■ "For pastry cooking, try grating frozen butter into the flour. It cuts in better and will stay cool longer. This helps when I'm making shortbread, as the flour and butter need to be combined. I don't end up having to put it in the fridge to cool it back down."—C.S. in South Carolina

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.



# Life & Style

## Betty White's death caused by stroke suffered 6 days earlier

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Betty White died from a stroke she had six days before her Dec. 31 death at age 99, according to her death certificate.

The beloved "Golden Girls" and "Mary Tyler Moore Show" actor died at her home in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles as the result of a Dec. 25 cerebrovascular accident, the medical term for a stroke, according to the LA County death certificate obtained Monday by

The Associated Press.

The cause was provided by White's doctor, as is typical in such cases.

She was cremated and her remains were given Friday to Glenn Kaplan, the man in charge of White's advanced health care directive.

Jeff Witjas, White's longtime agent and friend, who



**White**

first confirmed her death to the AP, said she had been staying close to her Los Angeles home during the pandemic.

The document lists White's legal name of Betty Marion Ludden. She took the last name of her husband Allen Ludden, to whom she was married from 1963 until his death in 1981.

The information from the death certificate was first reported by TMZ.

White, whose comic chops and up-for-anything charm made her a television mainstay for more than 60 years who was celebrated by several generations of fans, died less than three weeks before her 100th birthday.

President Joe Biden, Mel Brooks, and many other celebrities and prominent leaders paid tribute to her after her death.

## Greece hopes marble foot will get UK to return sculptures

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—It's only the size of a shoebox, carved with the broken-off foot of an ancient Greek goddess.

But Greece hopes the 2,500-year-old marble fragment, which arrived Monday on loan from an Italian museum, may help resolve one of the world's thorniest cultural heritage disputes and lead to the reunification in Athens of all surviving Parthenon Sculptures—many of which are in the British Museum.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the Sicilian museum's gesture "opens the way, I believe, for other museums to be able to move in a similar direction."

"Most importantly, of course, the British Museum,



AP PHOTO/THANASSIS STAVRAKIS

Two conservators hold a Parthenon fragment, on loan from the Antonino Salinas Regional Archaeological Museum of Palermo, at the Acropolis Museum, in Athens, on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022.

which must now realize that it's time for the Parthenon marbles ... to finally return here, to their natural home," he added, voicing gratitude to

Italy for the loan.

The fragment was part of a 160-meter-long (520-foot) frieze that ran around the outer walls of the Parthenon Temple

has ever worked on.

The results will be on display at the museum through Oct. 10. The painting will then travel to the San Diego Museum of Art in 2023.

The late American modernist artist painted the piece, titled "Spring," in 1948. It was last seen by the public in 2019, the Albu-

querque Journal reported.

The painting combines such O'Keeffe trademarks as desert primroses, a large vertebra and the northern New Mexico mountain peak named Peder-nal. Measuring about 4 by 7 feet (1.2 by 2.1 meters), it was the largest canvas the artist had painted up to that point.

on the Acropolis, dedicated to Athena, goddess of wisdom. Much was lost in a 17th-century bombardment, and about half the remaining works were removed in the early 19th century by a British diplomat, Lord Elgin. They ended up in the British Museum, which has repeatedly rebuffed Greek demands for their return.

## US Mint begins shipping quarters honoring Maya Angelou

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The United States Mint said Monday it has begun shipping quarters featuring the image of poet Maya Angelou, the first coins in its American Women Quarters Program.

Angelou, an American author, poet and Civil Rights activist, rose to prominence with the publication of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" in 1969. Angelou, who died in 2014 at the age of 86, was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2010 by President Barack Obama.

The quarter design depicts Angelou with outstretched arms. Behind her are a bird

in flight and a rising sun, images inspired by her poetry.

The mint's program will issue 20 quarters over the next four years honoring women and their achievements in shaping the nation's history.

Additional honorees in 2022 will be physicist and first woman astronaut Sally Ride, and Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. Also honored this year will be Nina Otero-Warren, a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement and the



**Angelou**

first female superintendent of Santa Fe public schools, and Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American film star in Hollywood.

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nevada, the Senate sponsor of legislation

directing the mint to issue the quarters honoring women, applauded the Mint's selection of Angelou for the first coin.

"This coin will ensure generations of Americans learn about Maya Angelou's books and poetry that spoke to the lived experience of Black women," she said in a statement.

## Damaged O'Keeffe painting on display again after restoration

**SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)**—A damaged Georgia O'Keeffe painting is back on display after conservators spent 1,250 hours and \$145,000 restoring it.

Dale Kronkright, head of conservation at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, called the job the most massive restoration project he

## Man's anger begins to boil over in everyday exchanges

**DEAR ABBY:** I am becoming more and more irritated with people. My fuse is short and I'm prone to bursts of anger. Today I watched another driver run a red light, and I proceeded to honk my horn, lower my window and give the guy my middle finger. (Yeah, I know it was risky, but I couldn't resist the impulse.)

I am sick of people! They are, in my opinion, self-centered, inconsiderate jerks who need to be smacked. Stupid questions also set me off. I have been snapping at my wife and kids, which is not something I intend. What can I do to get a grip on my temper and not act out the way I have been doing? Is something wrong with me?

REALLY A NICE GUY IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR NICE GUY:** The "Season to be Jolly" has always been stressful, as is its aftermath, when it's time to pay the bills. This last holiday season has been more stressful than most for any number of reasons.

Anger is a normal emotion. Everyone experiences it from time to time. But lowering one's car window, playing the horn like a musical instrument and giving other drivers the finger is not only unwise, but dangerous. These days it could get you killed. For the record, a bad mood is not a valid excuse for taking it out on someone you think has asked a stu-

pid question. If a query is sincere, no question is "stupid."

Your loss of self-control—if recent—could be related to frustration or misdirected anger at something out of your control. Does experiencing these feelings mean there is something "wrong" with you? Not necessarily, as long as you find ways to manage your emotions before exploding. We are all human. We all make mistakes.

My booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," offers suggestions for directing angry feelings in a healthy way. It contains suggestions for managing and constructively channeling anger in various situations. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 to Dear Abby Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

It takes self-control and maturity to react calmly instead of striking out in anger. Recognizing what is causing these negative emotions can go a long way to help you avoid taking them out on others. I sometimes wonder whether anger management should be added to school curriculums to help the next generation learn to communicate in a healthy manner, rather than simply reacting.

**DEAR ABBY:** My dear friend "Francine" loves male atten-

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tion and flirts with men, married or unmarried, at parties and on other occasions. I don't think flirting with married men is proper because it sends the wrong message. I also don't think their wives appreciate her behavior. Am I off base? I would appreciate your input.

OLD-FASHIONED IN ARIZONA

**DEAR OLD-FASHIONED:** Your dear friend may do this not because she's trying to break up a marriage, but because she needs validation and wants to reassure herself that she is attractive. If the wives find her behavior a threat, they can tell her that themselves, or exclude her from their gatherings.

P.S. Is it "proper"? No. Does it happen? Quite often.







# Georgia snaps 41-year title drought with 33-18 win over Bama

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**  
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Stetson Bennett delivered the biggest throws of his storybook career and Georgia's defense sealed the sweetest victory in program history, vanquishing rival Alabama 33-18

**2022**  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
JANUARY 10 | INDIANAPOLIS

in the College Football Playoff title Monday night for its first national title in 41 years.

Bennett connected with Adonai Mitchell on a 40-yard touchdown to give No. 3 Georgia a 19-18 lead with 8:09 left and then hooked up with Brock Bowers for a 15-yard TD on a screen to put the Bulldogs up eight with 3:33 left.

The final blow came from Georgia's dominant defense. Kelee Ringo intercepted an underthrown deep ball down the sideline by Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young.

"I just saw the ball in his hands and that was all she wrote," said safety Lewis Cine, the game's defensive MVP.

Instead of going down with a little over a minute left, Ringo took off and behind a

convoy of blockers and went 79 yards for a touchdown that set off a wild celebration by the Georgia fans who packed Lucas Oil Stadium.

"There's going to be some property to burn up in Indianapolis tonight," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said, paraphrasing the late Georgia play-by-play man Larry Munson.

The Bulldogs (14-1) hadn't won a national title since freshman Herschel Walker led them there in 1980. If simply snapping the drought wasn't good enough, doing against No. 1 Alabama (13-2) had to make it feel even better.

"I cried, so pretty good," Bennett said when asked how it felt.

Nick Saban's Crimson Tide had won seven straight against the Bulldogs, including the last four against Smart, Saban's longtime assistant.

Smart returned to his alma mater as coach in 2016 and has been chasing his mentor ever since. The Bulldogs lost two SEC championship games, including one five weeks ago, and the 2018 CFP title game to the Tide under Smart.



Georgia's Stetson Bennett celebrates after the College Football Playoff championship football game against Alabama Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, in Indianapolis. Georgia won 33-18.

"I told them we burned the boats. The only way home was through them," Smart said he told his team about the Crimson Tide.

Mission accomplished.

Bennett, the former walk-on turned starter, finished 17 for 26 for 224 yards and no interceptions.

For most of the first three quarters, first CFP title game to be a rematch of a regular-season game was an ol' fashioned Southeastern Conference defensive struggle.

The first touchdown of the game came with 1:20 left in the third quarter. After James Cook broke a 67-yard run

to get the Bulldogs into the red zone, three more running plays—a facemask penalty by Alabama—got them into the end zone. Zamir White went in standing up from a yard out with massive defensive tackles Jalen Carter and Jordan Davis leading the way as blockers. The Bulldogs led for the first time, 13-9.

After Alabama added another field goal, the Tide caught a break on strange looking turnover by the Bulldogs.

As Bennett was being taken down deep in Georgia territory, he tried to throw the ball away. The ball slipped loose, and bounced toward the side-

line, seemingly harmless. Alabama's Drew Sanders casually caught the ball as he was jogging out of bounds.

Surprisingly, the ruling on the field was a fumble, recovered by the Tide and replay upheld the call, giving the Tide the ball in the red zone. A few plays later, Young eluded the rush and found Cameron Latu for a 3-yard touchdown that put Alabama up 18-13 with 10:14 left in the fourth.

It felt again that Georgia would not be able to break whatever spell Alabama seemingly had on the Bulldogs.

Bennett was 13 for 22 for 141 yards as the next drive

started, and you could practically hear all skeptical Georgia fans wondering why Smart didn't turn to his four-star back-up QB, J.T. Daniels, for a spark.

As he has done so many times during a career that started on the scout team and took a detour through junior college in Mississippi, the small-town Georgia kid nicknamed Mailman came through.

Bennett complete all three of his passes for 68 yards, including a long strike to Mitchell for a touchdown with 8:09 left that gave the Bulldogs a 19-18 lead after a failed 2-point conversion.

The Bulldogs' defense clamped down on Young, forcing a three-and-out on the Tide's next drive, and then Georgia went to work on sealing a long-awaited championship.

Young finished 35 for 57 for 359 yards with two interceptions and was sacked three times after Georgia didn't bring him down one in the SEC title game.

"We played a heck of a game against a heck of a team for the first three quarters of the game," said Saban, who was denied his eight national title, seventh with Alabama in the last 13 years. "Nobody can take the SEC championship away from this team, the Cotton Bowl championship."

"We just didn't finish the way we needed to finish."

## Defense earns redemption as Georgia ends long title drought

By **CHARLES ODUM**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

Georgia won its long-awaited national championship the way it dominated during an undefeated regular season—by relying on its defense.

The Bulldogs allowed only 30 yards rushing in beating Alabama 33-18 on Monday night in Indianapolis. Georgia (14-1) won its first national title since the 1980 season.

"I hope it doesn't take that long again," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "Go Dawgs!"

The clinching touchdown came on cornerback Kelee Ringo's 79-yard interception return with less than one minute remaining.

It was redemption for a defense that hadn't allowed more than 17 points in a game before being humbled in its 41-24 loss to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 4.

The defense regained its swagger with its 34-11 semifinal win over Michigan. Winning the rematch with Alabama (13-2) was the crowning achievement for Smart and his defense.

The Bulldogs entered the championship game allow-

ing a nation-best 9.6 points per game.

Held without a sack in the loss to Alabama in Atlanta, Georgia's defense appeared to break through on the fourth play of the game.

Defensive tackle Jordan Davis reached Alabama quarterback Bryce Young for an apparent sack. Young appeared to fumble, and linebacker Nakobe Dean scooped up the loose ball and ran for what was called a touchdown by the officials.

Following a review, the play was ruled an incomplete pass. Officials ruled Young's arm was going forward as he was tossed to the ground. The Crimson Tide's drive continued and ended with a field goal.

Linebacker Channing Tindall gave Georgia its long-awaited first sack of Young, for a loss of 13 yards, in the second quarter as the Crimson Tide again settled for a field goal by Will Reichard.

Georgia took a 19-18 lead on Stetson Bennett's 40-yard touchdown pass to Adonai Mitchell. The defense then stopped Alabama without a first down. The Crimson Tide's punt set up Bennett's 15-yard touchdown pass to tight end Brock Bowers to stretch the lead to eight points.

## Young, Alabama can't summon comeback minus 2 best receivers

By **JOHN ZENOR**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

Bryce Young couldn't deliver another dramatic drive with his two best wide receivers watching from the sideline.

Not with the nation's best defense in the way.

The Alabama sophomore had his Heisman Trophy-winning season effectively ended by a last-minute pick six in a 33-18 loss to Georgia in the College Football Playoff championship game Monday night in Indianapolis.

Young pushed the Crimson Tide across midfield in the final two minutes before Kelee Ringo picked off an underthrown downfield pass intended for backup Traeshon Holden and returned it 79 yards for the back-breaking touchdown.

Stuck playing catchup in the fourth quarter, Alabama desperately could have used either of its top pass catchers.

All-American Jameson Williams appeared to injure his left knee in the first half and didn't return, joining fellow 1,000-yard receiver John Metchie III on Alabama's injured list. That took away the nation's top deep threat and



Georgia's Adonai Mitchell catches a touchdown pass over Alabama's Khyree Jackson during the second half of the College Football Playoff championship football game Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, in Indianapolis.

the chance to fire away to the speedster with four touchdowns of at least 70 yards.

Young finished his first season as a starter going 35 of 57

for 369 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

Williams had four catches for 65 yards after a seven-catch, 184-yard, two-touch-

down performance in the Southeastern Conference title game against the Bulldogs.

Metchie was out with a knee injury sustained in the first half of that first meeting. They had been Young's go-to receivers all season.

Without his favorite targets, the steady-handed Young was left with less experienced targets like Agiye Hall, Ja'Corey Brooks and Holden. All talented, all fairly green.

When Alabama took over with eight minutes left down a point, Young threw an incomplete to Hall and a pass to Slade Bolden was broken up.

He got it across midfield with a 12-yard pass to tight end Cameron Latu before two incompletions to Brooks and the fateful pick. Brooks had nabbed the biggest catch of the season late against Auburn, when Young marched the Crimson Tide 97 yards to force overtime.

The offense had to settle for five Will Reichard field goal attempts Monday. He made four and had a 48-yarder blocked late in the third quarter.

Latu did have five catches for 102 yards and a 3-yard touchdown.



# Embiid goes over 30 again, 76ers beat Rockets, 111-91



**HOUSTON (AP)**—Joel Embiid had 31 points and eight rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers over the Houston Rockets 111-91 Monday night for their seventh straight win.

Embiid turned in his seventh straight 30-point game and also had six assists. He was 9 of 16 from the field and made all 13 of his free throws.

He's the second player in NBA history to score exactly 31 points in four straight games. Bob McAdoo was the first to do it for the Buffalo Braves in November 1973. Embiid entered Monday averaging 26.8 points per game, sixth in the NBA.

"I hold myself to that standard of trying to win and be the best, or one of the best, ever," Embiid said. "The good thing about it is, we've been winning. To be able to win every single night, I've got to show up."

Philadelphia has the longest winning streak in the Eastern Conference and the second-longest in the NBA behind Memphis' nine-game string.

"We've had to do it a lot of different ways," 76ers coach Doc Rivers said. "Right before this streak started, I said this team was about to get rolling. You could just feel it. Our guys have finally found a way to play no matter who is on the floor."

"It's also nice that our best player is playing dominating basketball right now."

Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for Philadelphia, Tobias Harris also had 13 points, Furkan Korkmaz had 12, and Matisse Thybulle and Isaiah Joe both added 10.

Philadelphia was playing without Seth Curry, who was dealing with left ankle sore-



Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) reacts after teammate Isaiah Joe's three-point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets, Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, in Houston. AP

ness. Danny Green started in Curry's place and scored five points in 20 minutes.

"We didn't have much of a pick-and-roll game without our guards," Rivers said. "I just thought Joel set the tone on a night where we had a lot of guys out."

Philadelphia led 36-27 after the first quarter and 62-50 at halftime.

Christian Wood and Jalen Green each scored 14 points for Houston. Josh Christopher had 13 and Daniel Theis added 12.

The Rockets were without shooting guard Eric Gordon, who was dealing with right groin tightness.

Houston had 21 turnovers, and the Sixers made them pay, scoring 29 points off turnovers and 11 points in transition. Philadelphia also outscored

Houston 56-28 in the paint.

"Their size, obviously, was an issue, our decision-making wasn't great at all," Rockets coach Stephen Silas said. "We turned the ball over, and we just made a lot of young mistakes tonight."

The struggling Rockets have lost 11 of 12 and fell to 11-31 just past the season's halfway point.

## Celtics 101, Pacers 98, OT

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 26 points and Jayson Tatum had 24, carrying Boston over Indiana in the first of a home-and-home series between the teams.

Robert Williams III had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Boston, including a key block in OT. The Celtics won for the

fourth time in six games.

Torrey Craig led the Pacers with 19 points and Lance Stephenson scored 14 but missed a potential tying 3-pointer late in OT. Indiana has lost seven of eight.

Pacers scoring leader Domantas Sabonis was held to 11 points but had 23 rebounds after scoring a career-best 42 points in his last game. He finished with a triple-double, adding 10 assists.

## Trail Blazers 114, Nets 108

In Portland, Ore., Anfernee Simons had 23 points and 11 assists, and short-handed Portland took advantage of James Harden's absence for a victory over Brooklyn.

Harden was out with a hyperextended left knee. Kyrie Ir-

ving started in his second game of the season and finished with 22 points. Kevin Durant led all scorers with 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

Robert Covington had 21 points, including five 3-pointers, for the Blazers, who saw all five starters score in double figures.

Monday's game was originally scheduled for Dec. 23 but was postponed because of COVID-19 issues.

## Knicks 111, Spurs 96

In New York, RJ Barrett scored 31 points in his first home game since hitting his first career buzzer beater, leading New York over San Antonio.

Evan Fournier returned from a one-game absence with 18 points for the Knicks, who broke open a game that had been close throughout by out-

scoring the Spurs 18-2 to start the fourth quarter.

The Knicks won for the third time in four games to reach the midpoint of their schedule at 20-21.

Dejounte Murray scored 24 points for the Spurs, who finished a 1-6 road trip. Jakob Poeltl had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

## Hornets 103, Bucks 99

In Charlotte, N.C., LaMelo Ball hit the go-ahead basket with 15 seconds left, Terry Rozier scored 27 points and Charlotte beat NBA champion Milwaukee for the second time in three nights.

Ball scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half, and Miles Bridges added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets, who have won six of eight games and improved to 12-5 at home.

Khris Middleton had 27 points and 11 assists, and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 26 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists for the Bucks, who also lost 114-106 to the Hornets on Saturday night.

Ball sank the winner when he drove across the lane, swept the ball above his head and launched an off-balance 10-foot runner.

## Pistons 126, Jazz 116

In Detroit, Cade Cunningham scored 18 of his career-high 29 points in the third quarter to help Detroit erase a 22-point deficit and beat Utah.

Saddiq Bey added 29 points for Detroit, which is 4-2 in 2022 after finishing 2021 with 18 losses in 19 games. Lead assistant coach Rex Kalamian took charge with coach Dwane Casey having entered COVID-19 protocol.

Donovan Mitchell scored 31 points for Utah, and Hassan Whiteside had a season-high 21 points as well as 14 rebounds.

Utah, which had won 10 straight against the Pistons, led by 22 in the second quarter but was outscored 94-62 in the final 2 1/2 quarters.

## Cavaliers 109, Kings 108

In Sacramento, Calif., Jarret Allen had 18 points and 17 rebounds, Darius Garland also had a double-double and Cleveland held off Sacramento.

Kevin Love scored 19 points, Evan Mobley added 17 and Lauri Markkanen and Cedi Osman finished with 15 points apiece. Garland had 12 points and 11 assists as the Cavaliers completed the season sweep of the Kings.

Tyrese Haliburton had 21 points and eight assists for Sacramento. Buddy Hield added 19 points. The Kings have lost a season-worst five straight.

# Nuggets trade Bol Bol to Pistons for McGruder, draft pick

**DENVER (AP)**—The Denver Nuggets finalized a deal with Detroit on Monday that will send big man Bol Bol to the Pistons.

In exchange, the Nuggets received guard Rodney McGruder along with a 2022 second-round pick via Brooklyn.

The 7-foot-2 Bol is the son of the late Manute Bol, who played 10 years in the NBA. Bol Bol was the 44th overall pick by Miami in the 2019 NBA draft and was acquired by Denver in a draft-night trade. He played in 53 games over three seasons with the Nuggets and averaged 2.7 points. He shot 47.8% from the field.

McGruder saw action in 17 games for the Pistons this season. He averaged 2.5 points and 1.6 rebounds. McGruder



Orlando Magic guard Cole Anthony (50) goes to the basket against Detroit Pistons guard Rodney McGruder (17) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, in Detroit. AP

went undrafted in the 2013 NBA draft after playing at Kansas State. He played overseas in Hungary in 2013-14 and had G League stints before signing with Miami.

The 30-year-old McGruder has played in 251 games with the Heat, Los Angeles Clippers and the Pistons.

Denver may not be done tinkering with its roster. On Sunday, Nuggets coach Michael Malone addressed possibly adding veteran center DeMarcus Cousins: "We're going to wait and see what happens," Malone said. "Talented player, somebody that I'm very close with. And if he comes to Denver, I think it would be a tremendous opportunity to reconnect with him. But nothing has been done on that front."



# U15 Junior National Program tryouts for basketball set

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Association is launching its U15 Junior National Program by conducting a series of tryouts, starting this Saturday.

NMIBF president James Lee said players that will be selected for the U15 Junior National Program will have a chance to represent the CNMI in the FIBA Oceania U15 Championships, which Guam will be hosting sometime in

November this year.

"We're excited to start our junior program and look forward to developing the skills and building the character of our young and promising players," Lee said.

NMIBF vice president David Apatang will oversee the program and is inviting players (boys and girls) in the U15 age group



and their parents/guardians/coaches to attend a briefing and meet-and-greet this Saturday at 4pm at the Oleai Sports Complex grandstand. Players must be born in the CNMI or a U.S. citizen that have resided on the islands for at least four years (cumulative or consecutive).

After the meet-and-greet, the NMIBF will conduct tryouts from Jan. 18 to February

24. The boys training/tryout sessions will run every Tuesday, from 430pm to 6pm, and Friday, from 5pm to 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. For the girls, the Thursday tryout/training sessions will take place from 4:30pm to 6pm at the Ada Gym, while Saturday's schedule is from 9am to 10am at the TSL

Sports Complex.

Apatang said the NMIBF will follow the same selection process implemented in the adults National Team Program. The Top 20 players will be selected after the first stage of the tryouts and they will have offseason training for three months and another

three for the next stage of preparation before the final roster is completed before the December competition.

Meanwhile, the NMIBF is also looking for coaches for the two youth teams. The federation will select one coach and an assistant each for the boys U15 and girls U15 national squads.

For more information about the U15 Junior National Program, send inquiries to [nmi-basketballfederation@gmail.com](mailto:nmi-basketballfederation@gmail.com). (PR)

## Triton Men's Basketball returns to the court this week



From left, Nathaniel Carreon, John Aquino, Alexander Slomka, Diane' Blackmon, Darryl Robles, Cisco Uncangco, Matthew Santos, and head coach Dana Holmes. TRITON ATHLETICS

The Triton Men's Basketball Team of the University of Guam will return to the court this week for the first time since the pandemic struck. The team will be one of eight teams competing in "Take It 2 the South," a double-elimination tournament being sponsored by the MicroFriends basketball organization.

The tournament begins at 6pm tomorrow in the Talofofo Gym, with the Tritons scheduled to take on the Imperials basketball club at 7pm.

UOG will play again on Wednesday at either 6pm or 8pm, depending on whether they win or lose their opening game. The two top teams will face off in the championship game next Wednesday, Jan. 19. The UOG games will be

recorded and posted the next day on the Triton Athletics YouTube channel.

"We are very excited to get back to playing basketball," UOG Athletics Director Doug Palmer said. "We haven't played in almost two years, so it will be nice for the players to feel the camaraderie and excitement again of being out on the court."

The Triton Athletics Department plans to host at least one men's league in the Calvo Field House this semester as well as play in an Andersen Air Force Base tournament in March.

The Triton Men's Basketball Team is led by Head Coach Dana Holmes. The seven-man roster consists of mostly new freshmen with a few athletes from the 2019-2020 team.

### Tournament Schedule:

**Tuesday, Jan. 11:**  
6pm - Sixers v. Pudding (Game 1)  
7pm - Tritons v. Imperials (Game 2)  
8pm - FOE v. Vairo (Game 3)  
9pm - Gamepoint v. Y.M.I (Game 4)

**Wednesday, Jan. 12:**  
6pm - Game 1 Winner v. Game 2 Winner (Game 5)  
7pm - Game 3 Winner v. Game 4 Winner (Game 6)  
8pm - Game 1 Loser v. Game 2 Loser (Game 7 - Loser Eliminated)  
9pm - Game 3 Loser v. Game 4 Loser (Game 8 - Loser Eliminated)

**Tuesday, Jan. 18:**  
**To be announced**  
Wednesday, Jan. 19:  
Championship - Time to be announced. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, youth players compete in the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's 3x3 event at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium late last year. This 2022, the NMIBF will hold tryouts for its U15 Junior National Program.

## COACH

From Page 20

ter is much larger. The current mainstream practice is like that," he said.

Kimura also was relieved that his insistence in sending the CNMI's top male and female swimmers to the short course championship in Dubai was headed.

"This time, I was able to talk with many coaches from small countries like us and found out that every country sends their No. 1 and No. 2 swimmer to the FINA World Champs. That's how most coaches responded to the invitation to the meet. I'm so glad that my thoughts were not wrong."

Kimura added he's happy that the CNMI is slowly developing swimmers that can compete in international meets like the 15th FINA World Swimming Championship.

"If we have enough number of eligible swimmers, we should always select the Top 2 male and Top 2 female. If we don't have enough swimmers, we can use any distribution, 2-1, 1-2, or 1-1."

Kimura and national swimmers Juhn Tenorio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, and sisters Asaka and Shoko Litulumar made up the CNMI delegation to the UAE. They were accompanied by Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representatives Richard Sikkell and Hiroko Tenorio.

## SHERLYN

From Page 20

Health Center had a gross score of 80, which minus her 9 handicap gave her the day's best net score.

"I was lucky because those girls are very good players. Let's just say God was with me last Saturday," she said.

Coming in second in the January tilt was Lorraine Babauta with her net 77 (82, 41-41), while completing the Top 3 was Yi Su Jeong with her 80 (83, 42-41).

Sherlyn said she struggled in one of the par-4s in the front nine as the greens were pretty hard to read.

"I was just able to control my shots. I was really lucky as

the greens were very fast and sometimes not so good. It was a beautiful golf course and I cannot really blame the course that much."

Sherlyn said her husband, Ben Sr., got her started in the sport way back in 2007 as he always came home very late after a round of golf.

And with that if-you-can't-beat-him-join-him attitude, Sherlyn soon took up golf and the rest is history.

Asked why she didn't try out for the women's national team for this year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, she said she wasn't eligible because she's not a U.S. citizen.

"I'm originally from Pohnpei in the Federated States of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sherlyn Jones topped CNMI Women's Golf Association's January Ace of the Month Tournament after shooting a net 71 last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Micronesia. I'm really sorry but I love my country. I al-

ready gave up my last name when I married my husband...

and we really have good players so we're good [for the Mini Games]," she said.

A total of 12 golfers took part in the CWGA January tournament. The rest were Sae Hee Kim (net 80), Mio Kim (net 80), Flor Jones (net 81), Terry Guerrero (net 82), Lou Kim (net 83), Rose Rohringer (net 87), Sunny Hyun Son (net 88), Yuko Togawa (net 90), and Jang Eun Aen (net 93).

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

## KICKS

From Page 20

Kicks and Cleats was formed with the help of Run Saipan mainstay Rosemarie Chisato who was instrumental in putting the winning women's team together.

"Rose was the one who found me a runner. Evelyn was her teammate in the last Christmas Island Relay so she paired us up," said Ronda.

The results of the mixed relay division of TRAC's 6th Saipan Duathlon will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Proceeds from TRAC's 6th Saipan Duathlon will go to the sport federation's preparations for the triathlon event of this year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 that the CNMI will be hosting for the very first time.

The 6th Saipan Duathlon was sponsored by IT&E.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	25	14	.641	—
Philadelphia	23	16	.590	2
Toronto	20	17	.541	4
Boston	20	21	.488	6
New York	20	21	.488	6

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	15	.625	—
Charlotte	22	19	.537	3½
Washington	20	20	.500	5
Atlanta	17	22	.436	7½
Orlando	7	34	.171	18½

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	26	11	.703	—
Milwaukee	26	17	.605	3
Cleveland	23	18	.561	5
Indiana	15	26	.366	13
Detroit	9	30	.231	18

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	28	14	.667	—
Dallas	22	18	.550	5
San Antonio	15	25	.375	12
New Orleans	14	26	.350	13
Houston	11	31	.262	17

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	28	13	.683	—
Denver	20	18	.526	6½
Minnesota	20	20	.500	7½
Portland	16	24	.400	11½
Oklahoma City	13	26	.333	14

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	30	9	.769	—
Phoenix	30	9	.769	—
L.A. Lakers	21	20	.512	10
L.A. Clippers	20	21	.488	11
Sacramento	16	27	.372	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





**Georgia snaps  
41-year title  
drought with  
33-18 win over  
Bama**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**U15 Junior  
National  
Program tryouts  
for basketball set**  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Coach Hiro took notes from Abu Dhabi trip

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**H**iroyoki Kimura didn't only steer CNMI national swimmers to splendid performances in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championship last month in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, but he also did his homework by exchanging notes with other coaches.

One of the coaches the CNMI national swimming coach was fortunate to talk to was U.S. National Swim Team head coach Dave Salo.

"He is one of best coaches in the world. But the reason why I like him very much is not that reason alone."

He went on to explain that he and Salo both belong to the International Swimming League where the latter serves as the Tokyo Frogkings head coach.

"In that team, many Japanese swimmers are active as the main members of the team. Coach Dave has a lot of Japanese swimming coach friends. One of them, coach Yuichiro Sasaki, is the head coach of the Chukyo University swim team and my son, Kensuke, swam under him for four

years."

Kimura said Salo is a very theoretical and innovative coach, adding that he learned from Salo a lot and even incorporated some of the U.S. national coach's drills in his own training for the 50m-100m sprint.

"He never gets caught up in the past and he constantly tries new things. He is very good at enlivening the team and does not have long meetings which is torture during competitions. Unfortunately, there are so many swimming coaches doing it. Despite being the head coach of the world's best—the U.S. team—he treats coaches in small countries like me very kindly and politely. He was already a very respectable

person even before becoming a coach."

The Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center head coach also learned in Abu Dhabi that long-distance practices are not always optimum for training.

"Coaching is evolving year by year. Nowadays, it is said that the practice of just swimming a long distance is ineffective. Tsunami Saipan swimmers can swim 20 kilometers or 30 kilometers if they just swim. But the distance doesn't make sense. Also, the practice of 100mX10 and the practice of (25mX4) X 10 has the same total distance. However, the load on the lat-

**See COACH on Page 19**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI national swim coach Hiroyoki Kimura, left, poses with U.S. National Swim Team head coach Dave Salo during a break in the 15th FINA World Swimming Championship last month in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

## Sherlyn Jones wins 1st CWGA tourney of 2022



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sherlyn Jones, standing second from right, won the championship of the January Ace of the Month Tournament.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Another Jones has hit pay dirt in the CNMI Women's Golf Association monthly tournament.

This after Sherlyn Jones

succeeded her namesake as champion of the January Ace of the Month Tournament after taming the greens and fairways of the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo last Saturday, Jan. 8.

In CWGA's last tournament of the year, Flor Jones won the December ace at the Laolao

Bay Golf & Resort.

Sherlyn topped the first monthly tournament of the all-women's golf club by shooting a net 71 on a 41 on the front nine and a 39 in the back. The former operating room nurse at the Commonwealth

**See SHERLYN on Page 19**

## Kicks and Cleats tops women's relay

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kicks and Cleats' Evelyn Pangelinan and Vernice Ronda had everything clicking for them en route to winning women's division of the 6th Saipan Duathlon last Saturday from Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

Pangelinan took care of the run portion and Ronda did her thing in the bike split to finish the 5-kilometer run, 20-km bike, and 2.5-km run with a time of 1:21:05.

Team Bingo of runner Jessica Ortizo and cyclist Marjorie Ganacias was a far second at 1:24:24 with Team Houk-Bang of Ann Bang and Rowena Houk completing the Top 3 in 1:27:42.

The women's winners agreed that the 6th Saipan Duathlon was, all in all, a very enjoyable event.

"It was fun. The 5K was kinda tiring. It's been a while but it was fun. The 2.5K was pretty OK and it was nice because she (Ronda) was riding alongside me for the last leg," said the 31-year-old Pangelinan.

"The bike leg was OK but was kinda windy coming back. It's easy going south but there was a strong headwind going back," said Ronda.

The only hitch Kicks and

Cleats encountered was the transition to the final 2.5-km run where Pangelinan was



and the tag at the rear of her bike didn't really affect their time. She added

caught off guard and was still chatting with friends when Ronda came in hot for the tag. "She was too fast and I said 'Oh, she's here' so I had to run to catch up with her [for the tag]," said a laughing Pangelinan, who works for Pacific Fertility.

Ronda said it was all good

that it's refreshing to return to competition after the Christmas holiday full of merriment. "It wasn't really easy, but it's a good motivation to getting back in shape," said the 43-year-old car rental company staff.

**See KICKS on Page 19**



Ronda



Pangelinan